MONDAY
September 26, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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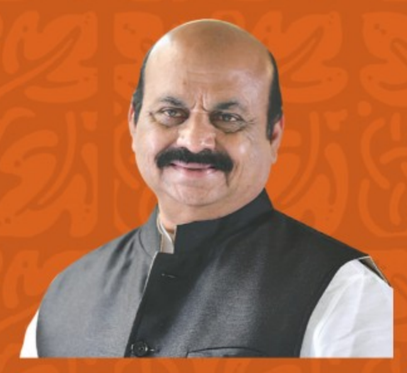
Smt. Droupadi Murmu
Hon'ble President

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Sri Thawar Chand Gehlot
Hon'ble Governor



Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Welcome to the World-Renowned
Mysuru Dasara Mahotsava

Naada Habba Mysuru Dasara
September 26 to October 05, 2022

Inauguration of the Dasara Cultural Programmes and State Level Sangeetha Vidwan Award Presentation Ceremony

Date: 26.09.2022, Monday
Time: 6:00 pm
Venue: Ambavilasa Palace Premises

Inauguration by
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Presided by
Sri S.A. Ramadas
MLA, Krishnaraja Constituency

Inauguration of Mysuru Dasara Mahotsava 2022 with the Agrapuja of Goddess Chamundeshwari

Date: 26.09.2022, Monday, 9:45 am to 10:05 am
(auspicious Vruschika Lagna) at Chamundeshwari Temple, Chamundi Hill, Mysuru

Inauguration by
Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President

Gracious Presence

Sri Thawar Chand Gehlot
Hon'ble Govenor

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Smt. Nirmala Seetharaman
Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India

Sri Pralhad Joshi
Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, Govt. of India

Sri Rajeev Chandrashekar
Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Govt. of India

Kum. Shobha Karandlaje
Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India

Sri A. Narayanaswamy
Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India

Sri Bhagwanth Khuba
Hon'ble Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India

Chief Guests

Sri S.T. Somashekar
Hon'ble Minister for Cooperation and Mysuru District In-charge, Govt. of Karnataka

Sri V. Sunil Kumar
Hon'ble Minister for Energy and Kannada and Culture, Govt. of Karnataka

Smt. Shashikala Annasaheb Jolle
Hon'ble Minister for Muzrai, Haj and Wakf, Govt. of Karnataka

Sri Anand Singh
Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Ecology and Environment, Govt. of Karnataka

Sri Shivakumar
Hon'ble Mayor, Mysore City Corporation

Presided by
Sri G.T. Devegowda, MLA, Chamundeshwari Constituency

Hon'ble Guests for all programmes
All Ministers, MPs and MLAs, MLCs of the Govt. of Karnataka and elected representatives of all local government bodies

Dasara Festival wishes to all

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Watch the program live on DD News

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

J BG-BGE

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JAISHANKAR ON UN REFORMS

'Too early to comment on India's veto power'

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INDIA WINS SERIES 2-1

Suryakumar, Kohli star in the big chase

SPORT » PAGE 13

INDIRA PARTHASARATHY

'Left failed to adapt to cultural needs'

NEWS » PAGE 9

TOWARDS INCLUSIVITY

India Inc. needs a neurodiverse workplace

Studies show diverse teams perform better

OPINION » PAGE 7

ITALY ELECTION

Far right eyes a rare win in ballot battle

WORLD » PAGE 12

NEARBY

Metro commuters face hardship

BENGALURU
At a time when BMRCL is working on expanding its network by building more stations across the city, the unopened entry/exit gates at existing stations continue to be a problem for commuters.

BENGALURU
» PAGE 2

CM lashes out at Congress

BENGALURU
As the 'PayCM' campaign gets embroiled in a caste angle, the Congress has been expanding its scope beyond Bengaluru even as Chief Minister Bommai is distancing himself from it.

KARNATAKA
» PAGE 3

92 MLAs in Rajasthan threaten to resign if Sachin Pilot is made CM

Congress Legislature party meeting fails to take place as Gehlot loyalists say 'anyone responsible for the failed 2020 coup' against the current CM should not be given the reins of the government

Sobhana K. Nair
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

A full-blown crisis broke out in the ruling Congress in Rajasthan on Sunday with at least 92 legislators belonging to the party and its allies threatening to resign if "anyone responsible for the 2020 failed coup" to unseat Ashok Gehlot as Chief Minister is given the reins of the State government. The MLA have made the indirect reference to former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, who was largely expected to replace Mr. Gehlot.

Mr. Gehlot is slated to file his nomination for the Congress president's post. Mr. Pilot's supporters, meanwhile, claim that the legislators will not resign and hand over the government on a platter to the BJP. They dismissed the entire episode as "pressure tactics".

Crisis time: A section of Congress MLAs on their way to meet Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi in Jaipur on Sunday. PTI

The central leadership had scheduled a Congress Legislature Party meeting to pick Mr. Gehlot's successor. The meeting, scheduled from 7 p.m. at his residence, could not take place, as the MLAs were at Cabinet Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal's residence. At 9 p.m., they boarded a bus to Speaker C.P. Joshi's residence. Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas said, "We are heading to Mr. Joshi's residence to resign. We want to convey our sentiment to the leadership. While we are ready to die for Rahul Gandhi's campaign against inflation and unemployment, we will not allow those who tried to bring down the Rajasthan government to be given the reins."

Mr. Dhariwal, a three-term MLA, is a close confidant of Mr. Gehlot.

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Indian National Lok Dal chief O.P. Chautala with Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury, and NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Fatehabad on Sunday. PTI

Nitish, Lalu try to find common ground for Cong., other parties

Sobhana K. Nair
Ashok Kumar
NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM

The role of the Congress in an anti-BJP front remained the talking point on Sunday, with Bihar leaders Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad trying to broker peace between the party and the rest of the Opposition.

The occasion was a rally of the Opposition parties at Fatehabad in Haryana, where the Congress was not invited, and a visit by the two leaders to party president Sonia Gandhi's home in Delhi, 200 km away. Mr. Kumar, who is the Bihar Chief Minister, and Mr. Prasad, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader, batted for the Congress's presence in an anti-BJP front.

The rally in Haryana was organised to mark the 109th birth anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister Choudhary Devi Lal.

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President Murmu on a three-day visit to Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In her first visit to Karnataka after becoming President, Droupadi Murmu will be in the State for three days from Monday, participating in programmes in Mysuru, Hubballi, and Bengaluru. She will be given the civic reception in Hubballi and Bengaluru.

The President will be welcomed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at Mysuru Airport on Monday morning as she arrives there for the inauguration of Mysuru Dasara. She is scheduled to visit Chamundeshwari temple before the inauguration.

She will then fly to Hubballi where she will be given a civic reception by the Hubballi-Dharwad City Corporation.

CONTINUED ON
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Top view

Tourists at Nandi Hills on the weekend, after the region saw unprecedented rains and flooding. The popular tourist spot is situated 60 km from Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Mysuru Dasara back in full-on glory; President to open a bigger, brighter and grander festival

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The city of palaces is decked up as Mysuru's showpiece event Dasara will unfold for 10 days starting Monday.

Held only as symbolic celebration devoid of any fanfare amid COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, Dasara is set to be bigger, brighter and grander this year and will be inaugurated for the first time ever by President Droupadi Murmu.

Officially designated a State festival (*Naada Habba*) and entailing government funding, Dasara is a fulcrum to revive the tourism sector, a major economic driver of the region. Tourism alone generates nearly 80,000 direct jobs in Mysuru and surrounding regions, but it was down in the dumps for two years due to the pandemic.

In Mysuru, Dasara marks the slaying of demon Mahishasura by Goddess Chamundeshwari and symbolises the triumph of good over evil. But its religious underpinnings apart, the festival has also emerged as a platform to showcase the cultural diversity of the State.

A total of 290 cultural events to be held over 10 days across eight venues in Mysuru. The grand finale will be the famed procession or the Jamboo Savari of caparisoned elephants carrying the golden howdah on October 5 followed by a torchlight parade.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

Jewel in the crown: The Mysuru palace is all decked up for the Dasara celebrations to be held from Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

108 ambulance services hit across Karnataka after ERC server faces technical glitch

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Patients requiring emergency ambulance services were in for a shock on Saturday evening when the 108 Arogya Kavacha call centre suddenly stopped answering emergency calls. The problem spilled over on Sunday and officials attributed this to a technical glitch at the call centre. Although the issue was rectified temporarily by evening, officials said a complete resolution is possible only by Monday.

On Sunday, while many patients had to opt for private ambulances, several others had to undergo hardship.

A 65-year-old woman in Idihalli of Madhugiri taluk, who required emergency medical service, died at her residence as the family was not able to get a 108 emergency ambulance. Taking note of this, Principal Secretary (Health) T.K. Anil Kumar said he will get this probed.

A file photo of a 108 call centre at Basaveshwara Nagar.

The 108 Arogya Kavacha service, run by the State government on a public-private partnership model (PPP) model with GVK-EMRI, was launched in 2008.

GVK-EMRI Chief Executive Officer Hanumanth R.G. told *The Hindu* that the problem occurred owing to a technical glitch in the motherboard of the 14-year-old server in the emergency response centre (ERC). "Although our engineers tried to repair the motherboard, that was not possible as the software did not support it. Also, as the server is an outdated one, the spares are not available now. While we usually get an average of 9,000 emergency calls a day, we have hardly received around 2,000 calls since Saturday night. While the phone rings for the caller, all calls did not land on our system and hence could not be connected," he explained.

"Usually, a call gets connected in two-three minutes. But due to this glitch, either calls did not get connected or took more than eight minutes to land," he said. The CEO said as a temporary arrangement, the backup server has been connected and calls will be answered through this system for the time being. "However, a complete resolution will be possible only by Monday after our team of technical experts completes its work," he said.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the department is exploring options of patching the 108 calls landing on other helplines such as 104, 112, and the Bescom helpline.

The Principal Secretary, who chaired a video conference with all district officials, said three-four decentralised control rooms have been set up in each district with the existing numbers and workers, including ASHAs, have been asked to circulate the numbers in the community. "People can call these control rooms till the issue is resolved completely," he said.

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'NEW TENDERS SOON'
» PAGE 2

S.M. Krishna hospitalised with respiratory infection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna has been hospitalised following an acute respiratory tract infection.

The 90-year-old BJP leader, who has also served as External Affairs Minister and Governor of Maharashtra, was admitted to Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru on Saturday night.

According to sources in the hospital, he is on minimal respiratory support system and in a "cheerful frame of mind". His status is being monitored by Health Minister K. Sudhakar.

Sunil Karanth, chairman and head of Critical Care Medicine at Manipal Hospital (Old Airport Road), told *The Hindu* that Mr. Krishna has tested negative for COVID-19.

S.M. Krishna

"He was shifted with a viral respiratory infection with some lung involvement. Although his vital parameters are stable, he has been put on respiratory support and minimal oxygen. His oxygen requirement is fluctuating between three to eight litres a day. Considering his age, we are closely monitoring him. He may require another three days of hospitalisation after which we will discharge him," the doctor said.

Pointing out that Mr. Krishna has been largely holding up compared to Saturday, Dr. Karanth said: "He was mobilised and made to sit on a chair on Sunday. He spoke to those who visited him".

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and BJP parliamentary board member B.S. Yediyurappa visited Mr. Krishna.

The Chief Minister told reporters that Mr. Krishna was recuperating and he would be discharged from hospital in the next two to three days.

He said Mr. Krishna, who had fever, was first admitted to Vaidehi Hospital. After problems in respiration, he was immediately shifted to Manipal Hospital.

People need not become panic, he added.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Over 5,000 militants arrested in Assam, only one convicted

5,202 The number of militants arrested in the last 12 years from various parts of Assam, with only one of them being convicted so far. The Assam Police arrested cadres of extremist groups, comprising people from the Bodo, Garo, Rabha, Karbi, Adivasi, and Muslim communities from 2011 to September 4 this year. PTI

Defence exports have quadrupled in past five years, says government

334 The percentage by which defence exports grew in the last five years. India is now exporting to over 75 countries due to collaborative efforts. India has continued to be one of the largest importers of defence products in the world, and this is the situation the government wishes to change, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said. PTI

Iran offers ONGC Videsh 30% stake in the Farzad-B gas field

30 The percentage of stake offered by Iran to ONGC Videsh Ltd and its partners for the development of the Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf that was discovered by the Indian consortium. ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), in 2008 had discovered a giant gas field in the Farsi offshore block. PTI

Fraudulent payments made by forest divisions in U.P.

20 The number of forest divisions in Uttar Pradesh that made fraudulent payments of ₹1.37 crore by mentioning false registration numbers of vehicles, according to a CAG audit report. The registration number of vehicles for which payments were done in the name of tractors and excavators were found to be motorcycles, jeeps, scooters etc. PTI

Boat tragedy off Syria's coast kills migrants from Lebanon

94 The death toll after a boat carrying migrants from Lebanon sank off Syria's coast, in one of the eastern Mediterranean's deadliest such episodes. Lebanon, a country that hosts more than a million refugees from Syria's civil war, has been mired in a financial crisis branded by the World Bank as one of the worst in modern times. AFP

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Shifting monsoon patterns

Why are certain regions of the country experiencing higher rainfall than normal? How is the triple dip El Nina effect contributing to this change? Do these changes affect the sowing of the summer crop?

EXPLAINER

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:
The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that the monsoon has begun to retreat from Rajasthan.

What is the monsoon withdrawal?
The monsoon is a sea-breeze that has consistently landed in the Indian sub-continent for thousands of years. It enters mainland India between the last week of May and the first week of June – though June 1 is its official onset date over Kerala. The IMD only counts the rainfall between June 1 and September 30 as monsoon rainfall. This doesn't mean that the monsoon system ceases to pour rain over India from October 1. In fact, monsoon-related rain can continue well into the first fortnight of October and only really retreats from India by late October. It is then replaced by the retreating, or northeast monsoon in November which is the key source of rainfall for several parts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and north interior Karnataka.

When does the monsoon withdraw?
The monsoon begins its withdrawal from the last State it reaches, which is Rajasthan. Around September 15, cyclonic systems from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal that fuel the monsoon from June-September are replaced by an 'anti-cyclone' circulation which means dry, windless conditions start to prevail over western and northern India. More technically, withdrawal is a cessation of rainfall activity over northwest India for five straight days, an anticyclone establishing itself in the lower troposphere and a marked reduction in moisture content. A day after the IMD announced the withdrawal, torrential rains began in several parts of north India.

How has the monsoon been this year?
Monsoon rainfall in India has been surplus by around 7% this year though with extreme inequity. Central and southern India saw a sharp surge in rainfall. Rains in Central India were surplus by 20% and in southern India by 25%, with the last month seeing several instances of flooding in Kerala, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. On the other hand, large parts of U. P., Bihar, Odisha have seen large deficits. The east and northeast of India have reported a 17% shortfall and the northwest 2%. This has impacted sowing of the kharif, or summer crop. Paddy planting has been impacted with sown area 5.51% lower than last year, according to the Agriculture Ministry. The Centre is expecting a minimum of six-million tonne shortfall in rice production and this is likely to elevate inflation.

Pouring down: A man riding a horse passes through the waterlogged Aluva Shiva temple premises following monsoon rains in Kochi on August 2. PTI

What led to excessive rains in southern and central India?
In April, the IMD had forecast 'normal' rains over India but by May-end indicated it to be above normal. Central India and the southern peninsula were expected to get 6% more than their historical average but what we have seen are rains far in excess of this. These heavy rains are premised on a La Nina, the converse phenomenon of the El Nino and characterised by cooler than normal sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific.

While, El Ninos are linked to reduced rains over India, La Ninas indicate surplus rainfall. India is seeing an extended spell of the La Nina, called a 'triple dip' La Nina which is a phenomenon lasting across three winter seasons in the northern hemisphere. This is only the third time since 1950 that a triple dip La Nina has been observed. This, in part, is why for the third year in a row, India is seeing surplus rain in September, a month that usually marks the retreat of the monsoon.

Are monsoon patterns changing?
Since 2019, monsoon in India has returned surpluses, barring a slight dip last year. The June-September rainfall in 2019 was 10% more than the 88 cm that India usually gets. Though June saw deficit rain, the months of July and August returned extra rain, with September registering 52% more rain than normal. In 2020, India saw 9% more rain with August registering 27% more rain and September 4% more than its usual quota. The rainfall over the country as a whole, in 2021, was 1% less than normal though rainfall in September was a remarkable 35% above what is usual. This year the monsoon is already in surplus by about 6% and a vigorous September is likely to see India post yet another year of surplus rain. Three years of above normal rain in a block of four years is unprecedented in more than a century of IMD's record keeping, data suggests.

THE GIST

- The IMD counts the rainfall between June 1 and September 30 as monsoon rainfall. This doesn't mean that the monsoon system ceases from October 1. In fact, monsoon-related rain can continue well into the first fortnight of October and only really retreats from India by late October. It is then replaced by the retreating, or northeast monsoon in November.
- Central India and the southern peninsula were expected to get 6% more than their historical average but what we've seen are rains far in excess of this. These heavy rains are premised on a La Nina, characterised by cooler than normal sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific. La Ninas indicate surplus rainfall. India is seeing an extended spell of the La Nina, called a 'triple dip' La Nina which is a phenomenon lasting across three winter seasons in the northern hemisphere.
- On the other hand, large parts of U. P., Bihar and Odisha have seen large deficits. The east and northeast of India have reported a 17% shortfall and the northwest 2%. This has impacted sowing of the kharif, or summer crop.

When are the new ICC rules coming into play?

Will 'mankading' no longer be considered unfair? What about the use of saliva to polish a ball? What are some other key changes? Can hybrid pitches be used for all matches now?

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The story so far:
The International Cricket Council (ICC) has come up with a host of changes in the rules on playing conditions of cricket. The changes will come into effect on October 1. The men's T20 World Cup, to be held in Australia from October 16 to November 13, will be played in accordance with the new rules. The ICC Chief Executives' Committee has ratified the recommendations from the Men's Cricket Committee, led by former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly. The changes were approved by the Women's Cricket Committee too.

What are the significant changes?
The practice known as 'mankading'– a batter being run out by the bowler while backing up too far from the non-striking end – has been destigmatised. It has been moved from the section on Unfair Play to the one on Run Out. 'Mankading' became a topic of discussion after R. Ashwin ran Jos Buttler out in such a manner during an IPL match at Jaipur three years ago. It has been considered against the spirit of cricket, a game which has traditionally valued ethics highly, sometimes at the cost of losing a considerable advantage or even a match. West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh had famously refused to run Pakistan's Saleem Jaffar out by 'mankading' in a match at the 1987 World Cup in Lahore. The host had needed two off the last ball when Walsh stopped and warned Jaffar. 'Mankading' is once again dividing opinions after India's Deepti Sharma ran England's Charlie Dean out in the third Womens One Day Internationals (ODI) at Lord's on Saturday.

Other changes include the banning of the use of saliva to polish the ball. The ban had already been in place, as a temporary measure, following the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, some part of the batter or the bat has to remain within pitch. If the batter goes beyond the pitch, the umpire could call it a dead ball. Conversely, if a ball forces the batter to leave the pitch, it will be a no-ball.

Also from now on the new batter, coming in at the fall of a wicket, should be ready to face the music from ball one: it doesn't matter if the batters have swapped ends before the catch is taken. Earlier, if the batters had crossed, the new batter would have walked up to the non-striking end. In precarious situations, the previous rule would have made life a little easier, especially for a tail-end batter. The new batter will also have a little less time to reach the middle. The time to take strike has been reduced, for Tests and ODIs, to two minutes, from three. The 90-second deadline stands for T20 Internationals, though. A penalty of five runs will be awarded to the batting side for an unfair and deliberate movement while the bowler is running in to bowl. Besides, that ball will be called a 'dead ball'. The ball can now also be deemed dead when a bowler attempts to run down the striking batter who comes down the wicket before the former enters the delivery stride.

What about the use of hybrid pitches?
The hybrid pitches could now be used for ODIs and T20Is, for men and women if both the rival teams agree. At present it is used only in women's matches. The hybrid pitches are made of natural grass (predominantly) and artificial fibre.

What about penalising a team for poor over-rate?
The penalty already in force in T20Is since January this year will be adopted in the ODIs as well, but only after the completion of the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League (2020-2023), which is part of the qualification process of the 2023 World Cup (ODI). If a team fails to bowl its overs in the given time, an additional fielder will have to be placed inside the 30-yard circle, for the remaining overs. That could make saving runs tougher for the fielding side.

THE GIST

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has come up with a host of changes in the rules on playing conditions of cricket. The changes will come into effect on October 1. The ICC Chief Executives' Committee has ratified the recommendations from the Men's Cricket Committee, led by former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly.
- The practice of 'mankading'— a batter being run out by the bowler while backing up too far from the non-striking end — has been destigmatised. It has been moved from the section on Unfair Play to the one on Run Out.
- Hybrid pitches which are made of natural grass (predominantly) and artificial fibre could now be used for ODIs and T20Is, for both men and women if both the rival teams agree.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through e-procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	North-1	BWSSB/ENTE/TO/AE-1/1402/ 2022-23 Date: 20.09.2022	Rs. 11,98,785/- / Rs. 30,000/-	10.10.2022 upto 3.00 pm	11.10.2022 after 4.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

2	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/1317 /2022-23 Date: 19.09.2022	Rs. 11,97,590.70 / Rs. 30,000/-	10.10.2022 upto 4.00 pm	12.10.2022 after 5.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

3	North West-2	BWSSB/EE(NW-2)/PB/1087/ 2022-23 Date: 23.09.2022 **(2nd Call)**	Rs. 25,40,055/- / Rs. 50,900/-	03.10.2022 upto 4.00 pm	06.10.2022 after 3.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-2)

The Details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/2349/Zenkar/2022-23

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

[SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT NO.2 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED:14/09/2022]

CMP No. 143/2021
[VIDEO CONFERENCING / PHYSICAL HEARING]

PETITIONER/s
MR. DEEPAK LOKANATH SINDHE
Vs.
RESPONDENT/s
MR. ATREYA TIWARI AND ANOTHER

TO,
R2. MINDFUL HOSPITALITY LLP,
NO. 120, 3RD FLOOR,
BRIGADE ROAD,
BENGALURU 560 001,
REPRESENTED BY ITS PARTNERS
A) MANAVAPATTI SRIDHARAN VASISTH
B) KARMALAPATTI RAGHUNANDAN RAJESH
C) MR. ATTREYA TIWARI.
.....RESPONDENT/s

Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court Under Section 11(5) of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 as in the copy annexed hereunto.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter on **02/11/2022 AT 10:30 A.M** in case you intend to contest the Petition. If you fail to appear, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the 14th Day of September 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sd/-
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

CH*15/09/2022-2C

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. 903/SEE(E)/Tr(W&M)/EE(E)/T-1&T-3/22-223/Cys-28 Date: 23.09.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement portal)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works:

1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/EE/AEE-1/21-22/110KV/ STN-26/110KV Ankola/4 for Replacement of 2x10 MVA, 110/33kV Transformers by 2x20 MVA, 110/33kV Transformer at 110/11kV Ankola sub-station in Uttara Kannada District.

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/903/SEE/HBL/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/ AEE-1/2022-23/220kV SRS/2 for Renovation and Modernization of 33kV line bays at 220kV SRS, KPTCL, Hubballi.

3) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/903/HBL/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/Tarihal/2 for Replacement of age old 110kV line & Bus Isolators at 110kV S/s Tarihal, KPTCL, Hubballi.

4) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-3/ HBL/Hot Line/22-23 for Supplying of 2 Nos. Energised Insulator tester/ Isolometer and 01 No. of Calibration tool for Hot Line Sub Division under Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Hubballi.

The details of the above works through e-procurement mode log on to e-procurement website: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **26.09.2022.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

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2 Cover e-tenders (Tender No. 140/22-23) are invited from the leading printing presses to undertake printing and supply of **Multicolour Booklet,** through online vide e-Tender id. 2022_CAPT_510050_1 Due date & Time of tender / bid submission (online) 29.09.2022 up to 11.00 AM. For detailed information log on the website:https://etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.captkerala.com.
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Raina Mahesh Kumar D/O, Mahesh Kumar Chhogalal R/o G 402, eta The Gardens, Magadi Road ,oppose Angalaparmeshwari Temple, Bangalore 560023 have changed my name to Raksha M Tated for all purposes.

I, KARTHIKEYAN Palanivel alias Karthikeyan Palanivelu S/o Palanivel, R/o: Prestige Ferns Residency, 4042 Harlur Main Road East Wood Township, Bengaluru-560102, changed my name to Karthikeyan Palanivel for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Preeti M Nash**, D/o. Hamilton Nash, W/o. Royden Salvius D'Almeida, Aged about 35 years, R/at No. A 64, 1st Floor, Double Story, Opp. HDFC Bank, Kalkaji, South Delhi - 110019, Presently Residing at C2 Windermere Apt, 7th North Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore North, St. Thomas Town, Bangalore - 560 084, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Preeti M Nash** to **Preeti Mary D'Almeida.** Vide affidavit dated 23.9.2022 sworn to before D.S. Chandrakanth, Advocate & Notary, at Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE V ADDITIONAL FAMILY COURT AT CHENNAI
O.P. No. 1233 Of 2021
A. Chandru Vyom Ambethkar
S/o. Ambethkar No.66/114C, Bajanai Koil Street, Choolaimedu, Chennai - 600 094
...Petitioner
-Vs
Preeti Annadurai Devendra
D/o. Annadurai No.162, Rawali Camp, Maternity Home, Dhobighat Nirmal Nagar Sion Koliwada, Mumbai - 400 037.
And Also at Pixel One Apartment, Flat No 25, Doddakammanahalli Main Road, Doddakammanahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 076.
...Respondent
To
Mrs. Preeti Annadurai Devendra
D/o. Annadurai No.162, Rawali Camp, Maternity Home, Dhobighat Nirmal Nagar Sion Koliwada, Mumbai - 400 037.
And Also at Pixel One Apartment, Flat No 25, Doddakammanahalli Main Road, Doddakammanahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 076.
Sir/Madam
Take notice that in the above matter, the Learned V Additional Family Court Judge at Chennai was pleased to order notice to you and posted for your appearance on 27.10.2022. You are hereby called upon to appear before the Learned V Additional Family Court Judge at Chennai on 27.10.2022 at 10.30 am or soon thereafter without fail, failing which take notice that the above matter will be heard and decided in your absence.
(Chandru Vyom Ambethkar)
(Petitioner in Person)

EDUCATIONPLUS

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The quest to be the best

What does it take to be the best in one's field? Here are four qualities that will help

Viney Kirpal

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Neeraj Chopra did India proud when he brought home the gold in the 2021 Olympics. Despite receiving multiple awards, he left for the U.S. because public attention refused to fade and he felt the need to focus on his game. The late Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma raised the status of the santoor, which was once considered unfit for classical music. He studied it and redesigned and adapted it to play the complex ragas of Hindustani music.

Perseverance pays

These two lives illustrate what it takes to become the best in any field. The adjective 'best' is the superlative of good and precedes the comparative degree 'better'. Thus one does not become the best in one shot but have to transition from A to B to C. There are two ways to becoming the best. In the first, you outperform competition. This is hard and unpredictable. The second is to outperform your own performance, which is in your hands. Four qualities help you complete different milestones to reach excellence.

Knowledge: No matter which area you wish to excel in, it is your knowledge in that field that makes you a master. Chopra left for the U.S. to gain advanced knowledge and prepare for the next competition. Sharma experimented with playing the santoor for years before giving a public performance. His biographer, Ina Puri, writes in *Shiv Kumar Sharma: The Man And His Music,* "He did not have the benefit of learning the traditional gats (fixed compositions) of the santoor since the santoor had no history of classical music. With his background of vocal music, he composed gats of extraordinary excellence, with a melodic and rhythmic blend."

Diligence: It makes you work hard on your goal without interruption. The secret is not to give up as you experience setbacks, but to rise after every rejection with renewed courage and conquer obstacles. There is a story that Isaac Newton's papers containing notes of his experiments were partially burnt when his dog upset a candle on them. But he continued his work on the law of gravity.

Self-discipline: This helps take you nearer your goal. Keep practising regularly and stick to your timetable. Both Sachin Tendulkar and M.S. Dhoni are said to have practised for hours every day to play as they did. Budding musicians do *riyaaz* daily, singers sacrifice certain kinds of food to protect their voice. Self-discipline keeps them fixed on their aim.

Patience: It keeps a person on the path to excellence. While growing our knowledge, abilities, skills, it is easy to lose heart. Sharma did not allow his disciples to perform in public until they had perfected their art, even if it took years.

Psychologist Abraham Maslow has spoken of the hierarchy of needs – physiological, safety, love, status, and self-actualisation. While the first four are basic to life, self-actualisation is the state of being where you compete with yourself and outperform your own performance every time. Like Michael Phelps, the swimmer who won six gold medals in a row at the Olympics. This attitude has to be cultivated in one's student days because that is when one has the time.

The writer is former Professor of English, IIT Bombay. Email: ceogiit@gmail.com

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Brighten your future prospects

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This career counselling column may help

I will complete my Bachelor's in Economics next year. I want to pursue a Master's in Political Science and work in research. What is the scope? Also, my father feels it is not worth going abroad to study Political Science. – Meenakshi

Dear Meenakshi,

An M.A in Political Science from a good university can assure many high-paying job opportunities: a Political Consultant, a Government Affairs Director, a PR Specialist, a Political Scientist, an Intelligence Analyst, or a Policy Analyst. You can also branch into research across specific fields like Public Administration, Comparative Politics, Domestic Policy, and International Relations. Studying abroad offers an unparalleled opportunity to deepen your understanding, observe, watch and get a real-time taste of their politics, policies, and the way their government is organised and exercises power.

I planned to do CA along with B.Com but did not get a seat in top colleges. So I joined B.Com integrated with US CMA and tried to prepare for CA privately. I lost interest in that. Now I am 22, working as an audit assistant. I am preparing for CA Intermediate and CAT simultaneously but don't have enough time due to my workload. What should I do? – Parvati

Dear Parvati,

What do you want to do eventually? Finance, Law, Auditing, CA or MBA? These are tough courses and it can take a few attempts to get the right score and institution of your choice. You seem confused and overwhelmed. I think you should take a break, clear your mind and first identify what you want to really pursue. If it is CA, then prepare for that. If it is law and finance so be it. If it is MBA then work for that. Please don't do a course to please people around you. Meet a qualified consultant and do a comprehensive personality and career profile. Think peacefully and calmly. You have time on your side.

I'm 25 with a Bachelor's degree in Statistics, Physics and Maths and preparing for UPSC exams. I wish to transition to a full-time career in sports (most likely badminton). My parents are okay as long as I can sustain myself. Is this transition possible? – Tejas

Dear Tejas,

Of course it is possible, given that the mean average age of male players in the Badminton world ranking increased from 23.7+/- 3.2 years in 1994 to 26.3 +/- 4.4 years in 2020. However, what is the level of success that you are currently experiencing in terms of a national and/or an international ranking or a rating to become a full-time badminton player at 25? The peak age today for is around 27-30 years but most national associations do not accept new players who are above 20 years old because it is too late to prepare them for the international circuit. How will you keep yourself financially afloat with life and family commitments that will also start increasing? Tournaments assure rankings and prize money. Do you have any government funding or sponsorships? Do you play in a professional league like India Premier Badminton League? Or do you have plans to start a training and a coaching space? Put these together in a pros and cons list and make an informed choice!

I'm currently doing my final year in B.Sc Operation Theatre and Anaesthesia Technology. I'm planning to do M.Sc in this field. Are there higher study opportunities in this field in Tamil Nadu?

Unfortunately, there is no higher course information available right now after a M.Sc in Operation Theatre and Anaesthesia Technology. MBBS students with a good NEET score can do an MD. Employment opportunities are lucrative both in India and overseas. You can also explore being a lecturer in a university in India and abroad.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

INBRIEF

CCB arrests bookie; ₹3.06 lakh in cash seized

Central Crime Branch (CCB) officials on Saturday arrested a bookie running an online cricket betting racket and seized ₹3.06 lakh in cash from him. The accused was waiting at the corner of a house at Deepanjalinagar in Byatarayanapura police station limits to hand over the winning amount to punters when the police, based on a tip-off, rushed to the spot and arrested him.

The accused had organised betting for the India-Australia T-20 match held on September 23.

'The Life and Times of George Fernandes' released

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Sunday released *The Life and Times of George Fernandes*, a biography of the former Union Minister late George Fernandes. The book written by Rahul Ramagundam and published by Penguin Random House, was released at a programme organised in Bengaluru by the Hind Mazdoor Kisan Panchayat. Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled that farmers' leader and socialist late M.D. Nanjundaswamy had introduced him to Fernandes. "Later we became close friends," Mr. Siddaramaiah said. He hailed Fernandes's commitment to ideology and his fighting spirit, while pointing out he had managed to win an election from within the four walls of the jail itself.

Woman informer gets threats from peddler, seeks help

The Siddapura police are on the lookout for three persons, including a woman from Mumbai, for threatening and harassing a 42-year-old homemaker for helping the police in investigation.

The victim, Annie Antony from Siddapura, had helped the police trap a woman carrier who had come to the city from Mumbai by flight to hand over drugs to a peddler. The accused had concealed cocaine in her undergarments and escaped from security personnel. However, Annie got to know about the accused and tipped the police who arrested her last month. The peddler sitting in Mumbai, identified as Arif, Imran, and Sana Khan started harassing Annie and threatening her with dire consequences. The accused had even accessed her Aadhaar card and her personnel and family members' photographs had been morphed and uploaded on social media. Annie filed a complaint with the South division cybercrime police, seeking action.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (September 26, Monday), the following explainer is available:

- Shifting monsoon patterns
  bit.ly/monsoonpatterns

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Metro commuters face hardship as gates of a few stations remain closed

Entry points of some stations on both the Green and Purple lines have remained shut for many months now; decision taken after analysing minimal movement, say BMRCL officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

No access: One of the entry points of Cubbon Park metro station that has been closed. SUDHAKARA JAIN

At a time when Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) is working on expanding its network by building more stations across the city, the unopened entry/exit gates at the existing stations continue to be a problem for commuters. While BMRCL officials say that the gates have been closed after analysing minimal movement there, commuters often face inconvenience because of the decision. There are a few stations on both the Green and Purple lines where some of the gates have remained shut down for many months now.

At the Cubbon Park on Purple Line, three gates have been closed – one towards M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, one towards the Income Tax Office and the other near Minsk Square. Commuters are forced to cross busy roads during peak hours to enter the metro station.

"This station is sort of in the middle point of the central business district. There are offices on all the roads surrounding the station. Would it not be helpful if they opened all the gates instead of keeping them locked? Crossing the busy Raj Bhavan Road (near the metro station) after 5 p.m. is a big task as there are no pedestrian signals and vehicles keep coming from one or the other direction," said Priyanka S., who regularly commute between Vijayanagar and Cubbon Park stations.

Some other stations where the gates are closed include K.R Market, Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna, and Baiyyappanahalli. Up until a few months ago, gates were also closed at National College station on the Green Line and Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah and Vidhana Soudha stations on the Purple Line.

"I have sometimes run in a hurry to one of the metro gates only to discover that it is closed. Then I had to cross roads or run in the opposite direction to catch the train. I have even tried asking security guards why the gates are closed and they do not have an answer. They say that they have just been asked to keep the gates closed," said Sathya Kumar, a sales agent who depends on the metro for his daily commute.

'Will review decision'

"Depending on the data available with us about how many people use the gates, we have closed them. In addition, with respect to infrastructure and security, we have taken some measures. During COVID-19 there were fewer people commuting too. Now, we will review the situation again and see how to follow up," said Yashwanth Chawan, BMRCL spokesperson.

'New tenders for 108 Arogya Kavacha will be finalised soon'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> We can expect a new vendor with enhanced services within one month. The new service will have the latest technical features and will be a model for the entire country.
>
> **K. SUDHAKAR,**
> Health and Medical Education Minster

The State government entered into an agreement with GVK-EMRI in 2008 for a period of 10 years on a PPP model. Although the company's agreement with the government has ended, new tenders for the service are yet to be finalised.

On July 14, 2017, the Health Department terminated its nine-year association with the company citing irregularities and violation of tender conditions.

While the department had invited tenders for a new service provider, the company approached the High Court of Karnataka challenging the termination of their service before the expiry of their 10-year contract period.

The company also contended that in the fresh tenders, the conditions were such that GVK was unable to participate.

The High Court ruled that the company should be allowed to participate in the tender process.

Subsequently, in December 2017 the department relaxed the tender conditions citing poor response to the tenders (only two bidders had participated).

After this, GVK-EMRI was asked to continue providing services till January 31, 2018.

Thereafter, the re-tendering process was further delayed due to Assembly elections in 2019 and COVID-19. The company was again asked to continue till further orders.

Health and Medical Education Minster K. Sudhakar, who asserted that GVK-EMRI's services have not been satisfactory, said new tenders have been floated.

"We can expect a new vendor with enhanced services within one month. The new service will have the latest technical features and will be a model for the entire country," he said.

READER'S MAIL

Kannada, Kannadigas yet to get their due

Sir, – This is in reference to the news item 'Bill for reservation to Kannadigas, primacy to language tabled'. Karnataka has been talking about implementing reservation in jobs for Kannadigas for a long time. Sarojini Mahishi report giving preference to Kannadigas in employment is decades old but precious little has been done on this score. Many committees have been formed and Bills tabled in the past. Over the years, Kannada and Kannadigas have not received the attention that is their due. Kannada does not get its due primacy in public sector banks, Central government establishments, advertisements for employment, Centrally sponsored functions, and at Kempegowda International Airport. Our elected representatives and our authorities must ensure that Kannadigas get their rightful share of jobs and Kannada gets the recognition it deserves.

H.N. Ramakrishna,
Bengaluru

Parking violations

Sir, – Parking violations are increasing by the day, making walking and driving extremely difficult. The traffic police have deferred the reintroduction of towing of vehicles parked wrongly.

If towing is not a viable option, the police can use tyre locks to lock the vehicles and provide contact details of the police station for the release of the vehicles. The authorities should ensure that no-parking zones on each road are clearly indicated.

G. Padmanabhan,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

BJP starts outreach initiative in city after criticism over poor infrastructure

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai during a meeting with T.V. Mohandas Pai, chairman of Manipal Global Education, in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a damage-control exercise, the ruling BJP and its government in the State have launched a programme to reach out to opinion makers in Bengaluru – IT industry bigwigs and select representatives of the residents' welfare associations (RWAs). This follows the recent barrage of criticism against the government over flooding and crumbling infrastructure in the city. The recently concluded Assembly session also saw the Opposition raise the issue to corner the government. The outreach programme also comes in the run-up to the civic polls and Assembly elections.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday met T.V. Mohandas Pai, formerly associated with Infosys, who had been critical of the State government of late and had even tweeted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Chief Minister's Office tweeted saying, Mr. Pai "thanked the chief minister for the initiative taken to improve Bengaluru infrastructure". Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Pai termed the meeting "positive". "The Chief Minister explained the focus on administrative reforms in the city, making civic administration more decentralised. He has also given enough funds to fill potholes. I asked him to finish all the pending projects like flyovers at Shivananda Circle and Ejipura and take up a massive cleaning drive across the city, to which he responded positively," Mr. Pai said. When quizzed over statements of some of the ruling party members that criticism was indeed hurting 'Brand Bengaluru', Mr. Pai said criticism by civil society was a reflection of a vibrant democracy. He said he stressed the need to develop Hubballi-Dharwad as an economic centre in North Karnataka.

Meeting with RWAs

Meanwhile, B.L. Santhosh, BJP national general secretary (Organisation), met with select representatives of the RWAs in the city in an outreach programme organised by the BJP Economic Cell, Karnataka. Vikram Rai, secretary, Bengaluru Apartment Federation (BAF), who was part of the closed-door meeting, said Mr. Santhosh stressed the track record of the government in implementing administrative reforms in city governance.

Residents of Gandhi Bazaar, who are objecting to white-topping and pedestrianisation of Gandhi Bazaar Main Road, met Mr. Santhosh separately. "When we raised our objections to the project, he cited the example of Chandini Chowk in Delhi and said we cannot oppose development. We made a presentation and he said he would get back to us soon," said N.S. Mukunda of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, who took part in the meeting.

Modi lauds work of Youth for Parivarthan volunteers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

They have beautified 390 black spots, parks, government schools in Bengaluru

In his 'Mann Ki Bath' programme on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi commended the work of volunteers of Youth for Parivarthan, a Bengaluru-based non-governmental organisation (NGO), for fixing garbage black spots and beautifying the streets of the city in the past eight years. The volunteers have also beautified parks and government-run schools in the city.

"In Bengaluru, there is a team Youth for Parivarthan. For the last eight years, they have been working for the cleanliness of the city and other welfare initiatives. Their motto is clear: stop complaining and start acting. This team has beautified over 370 spots across the city. They have involved hundreds of volunteers in their campaign on Sundays. After clearing garbage, the volunteers beautify the area by painting on walls that include sketches of popular personalities and write their inspirational quotes," said Mr. Modi in his speech.

Volunteers elated

Appreciation by the Prime Minister has elated the volunteers. "I have no words to explain how I feel after the Prime Minister recognised our work and spoke about it. His words have inspired all of our volunteers. Our responsibility has increased further to take up more such initiatives in the coming days," said Amith Amarnath, founder of Youth for Parivarthan.

He said the NGO has four core teams, each having 30 to 40 members. They plan their drives on social media. At present, more than 500 are actively involved in their beautification works. The NGO tied up with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for clearing the garbage at black spots in the city.

According to Mr. Amarnath, over 390 spots have been cleaned and beautified in the city so far. "We started with beautifying a spot at Banashankari in June 2014. Last Sunday, we beautified a government school at Herohalli. Our initiatives had begun a few months before the Central government announced the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," he added.

'Masjid Darshan' held to promote religious harmony

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of various faiths and even atheists participated in the 'Masjid Darshan' programme organised by Masjid-e-Bilal, a mosque on Bannerghatta Road, on Sunday. The tour was organised to promote brotherhood and religious harmony, the organisers said.

The participants said it was an opportunity for them to understand the working of different faiths.

"This is a time when many are trying to divide people based on faith, and it is a time when we should all be intermingling and exhibiting social cohesion. And social cohesion happens when there is better understanding. This was a beautiful initiative," said lawyer and activist Vinay Srinivasa.

The masjid authorities told *The Hindu* that such open dialogue was necessary at the time of communal tension and would want to carry out the same in other mosques too.

"Our country has a plural society. It is important that people know their religious, cultural as well as linguistic aspects. This way, they can understand each other better and that will bring about harmony in society which is diverse and plural," said Haroon, president of Jamaat-Islami-Hind, Jayanagar.

All the visitors were taken on a guided tour of the mosque. Volunteers gave them an idea of Islam, the masjid, and the rituals practised.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 26		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:13
RISE	06:21	SET 18:41
TUESDAY, SEP. 27		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:12
RISE	07:11	SET 19:21
WEDNESDAY, SEP. 28		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:12
RISE	08:03	SET 20:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid.Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at some places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night remains pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

No. DY. PLANT- R-791 **E- TENDER NOTICE** Date:- 21.09.2022

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Plant, BLW- Varanasi acting or and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work: **S.No.** 1, **Tender No:** DY. PLANT- R-791, **Name of Work**: Re-siting of Air box outside Auto Welder (MW No M1709) and Tandem Auto Welder (MW No M1741) from Bay 3 NBS Extension to other location, **Approximate Cost:** Rs. 40,12,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Twelve Thousand Only), **Completion Period:** 3 Months, **Tender Cost:** Rs. 4,250/-(Rupees Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Only), **Earnest Money:** Rs. 80,200/- (Rupees Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Only), **Last date and time for submission:** 12.10.2022 at **15:00** hrs., **Tender opening date and time**: 12.10.2022 after **15:30** hrs. **Note:** For Details and to participate E-Tender visit Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in

P.R.O./BLW/M- 15 Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Plant

/blwvaranasi " Website:- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

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CACHE

On 'Quiet quitting': a call for better work practices

A growing number of Gen Z and millennial workers have grown tired of not being recognised or compensated for putting in extra hours. Now, they want to end the burnout, and are looking for a better work-life balance

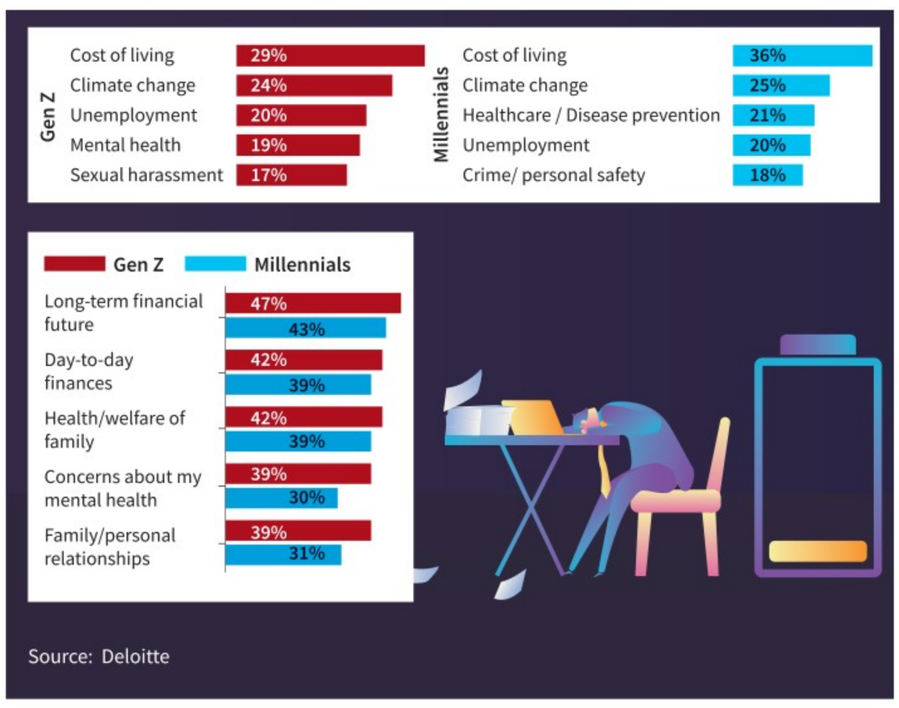
John Xavier

Social media is now the public square where two quirky words prefixed with a hashtag can make a difference almost instantly. While some of them fade into oblivion, some go viral and stay longer than others; at times raising questions at important yet overlooked aspects of today's society.

Burnout?

The recent two words trending on social media, more so on TikTok, is "Quiet quitting". The phrase has generated millions of views on the short-video streaming platform. Those promoting the concept appear to be young workers who have rejected the idea of going the extra mile at work. This group seeks to make people take time out of work and do something outside of the office. This trend, in a way, shows the impact of hybrid or work from home-based office work culture that has permeated all organisations in the last two years. During this time, a growing number of Gen Z and millennial workers have grown tired of not being recognised or compensated for putting in extra hours. Now, they want to end the burnout, and are looking to focus on a work-life balance. Their online movement centres around self-preservation and doing what they are paid to do.

According to a survey by Deloitte, Gen Z and millennial workers are feeling "burned out", and "many are taking on second jobs, while pushing for more purposeful – and more flexible – work." The survey of 14,808 Gen Zs and 8,412 millennials across 46 countries, shows that almost half of Gen Z and millennial workers live pay check to pay check, and worry that they won't be able to cover their expenses. Over a quarter of the respondents were not confident they would retire comfortably. Amid this financial unease, many of them are changing their working patterns with more of them opting for a second part-or-full-time paying job in addition to their primary job, the report notes.


Trends at the workplace for Gen Z and millennials
A survey by Deloitte shows concerns of young workers (Chart 1).
Chart 2 lists the various reasons for stress
Gen Z
Cost of living 29%
Climate change 24%
Unemployment 20%
Mental health 19%
Sexual harassment 17%
Millennials
Cost of living 36%
Climate change 25%
Healthcare / Disease prevention 21%
Unemployment 20%
Crime/ personal safety 18%
Gen Z
Millennials
Long-term financial future 47% 43%
Day-to-day finances 42% 39%
Health/welfare of family 42% 39%
Concerns about my mental health 39% 30%
Family/personal relationships 39% 31%
Source: Deloitte

Go-slow movement

The new trend resonates with the old-time slowdowns and work-to-wage strikes. Mostly raised by labour unions a century ago, the ideas came from workers engaged in improving working conditions and increasing daily wage in factories and industrial units.

The 'go-slow' idea goes back to the late nineteenth century when the organised dock workers of Glasgow, Scotland, demanded a 10% hike in wages. Their demand was refused by the owners, making the workers go on strike. To counter the budding movement, dock owners employed agricultural labourers to work for them. The dockers acknowledged defeat and returned to work under the old wage. However, the story didn't end there. The dockers observed their replacements closely and found them to be inefficient. Edward McHugh, founder of the National Union of Dock Labourers that was leading the protest for higher wages, said, "We have seen that they [replacement workers] could not even walk a vessel and that they dropped half the merchandise they carried; in short, that two of them could hardly do the work of one of us." Based on this observation, McHugh told the dockers, "There is nothing for us to do but the same. Work as the agricultural labourers worked." The dockers followed McHugh's order to the letter, and after a few days the owners asked the union to tell workers to complete the task as before, and that they would be granted the 10% pay increase.

Around the same time, a similar protest broke out in Indiana, U.S., after railroad bosses cut workers' wage. The protesters took their shovels to the blacksmith and cut two inches from the scoops. They returned to work and told their employer "Short pay, short shovels."

Working in the 21st century

Century-old dock worker and railroad employee strikes chime with our times on worker rights, fair wage and employee benefits. But, since the turn of the twenty-first century, several aspects of work have changed. A significant number of processes are now automated. Robots have replaced humans in several industrial units. The labourer, too, has become a knowledge worker. Their working day has expanded, and a significant amount of time goes in responding to emails and connecting with others over collaboration tools. These tools have increased the amount of time people spend in communicating with colleagues and clients spread across various parts of the world. Additional hours at work meant less personal time.

The changes in work are a result of how companies re-organised for the information age. For example, a company engaged in a single activity branched out into other verticals. This shift made it focus on new customer segments, or in entering new geographies. These business decisions make it necessary for employees to connect with diverse colleagues to discuss and execute critical functions of the organisation. Collaboration technologies in the workplace, adoption of matrix-based structures, and the proliferation of initiatives to create a "one firm" culture have created what some experts call the collaboration workload. "Too often, excessive collaboration harms organisational performance, overworking employees for only marginal gains," Rob Cross and Peter Gray of the University of Virginia's business school note in their paper titled 'Where Has the Time Gone? Addressing Collaboration Overload in a Networked Economy'.

Collaboration overload

The duo's research revealed that white-collar workers spend 70-85% of their time attending meetings (virtual or face-to-face), dealing with e-mails, talking on the phone or otherwise dealing with a barrage of requests for their input. Many spend so much time interacting that they end up carrying much of their work back home to be completed at night. With more collaborative tools and greater demand for time, employee burnout has increased. Cross and Gray's research was done before the pandemic. After COVID-19 and its resultant decision to go into lockdown and limit physical movement of people, the number of tasks done online has grown exponentially. While the increase in digitisation was seen as a boon during the early part of the pandemic, extensive reliance on technology has now become a bane for several workers.

Employee analytics firm Gallup said that the phrase "quiet quitting" caught on as "most jobs today require some level of extra effort to collaborate with co-workers and meet customer needs." In its analysis of U.S. workers, the company found that the ratio of 'engaged' to 'actively disengaged' employees was 1.8 to 1, the lowest in almost a decade. The drop in engagement began in the second half of 2021, around the time when another hashtag went viral – #GreatResignation.

But quiet quitting has nothing to do with quitting. It simply means that regular day-to-day tasks will be done. While there are always the ambitious, over-achieving few in any organisation, a large proportion of employees prefer to do the tasks they have agreed to do as part of their job description. And this does not mean quitting; it simply means they are working.

Against crunch culture

This trend, however, may well be an anti-thesis of the infamous 'crunch culture'. In the gaming industry, crunch is the word used for overtime. During a crunch period, which comes before an important deadline for a game's launch, developers put in about 60+ hours a week. According to Section 51 of the Act, the spread over should not exceed 10.5 hours.

Most recently, videogame maker Striking Distance Studios' founder and CEO Glen Schofield, said in a now-deleted tweet about the company's upcoming horror title: "We are working 6-7 days a week, nobody's forcing us. Exhaustion, tired, Covid but we're working. Bugs, glitches, perf fixes. 1 last pass thru audio. 12-15 hr days. This is gaming. Hard work. Lunch, dinner working." The tweet drew a lot of negative replies, making him pull it out, and apologising for glorifying the long hours. "I'm sorry to the team for coming across like this," he wrote later.

However, crunch culture is not confined to the gaming industry. Closer to home, Shantanu Deshpande, founder and CEO of the Bombay Shaving Company, drew flak for asking Gen Z workers to "put in 18-hour days for at least 4-5 years" in a LinkedIn post. He noted that it was "too early" for young people to think about a work-life balance. He received quite a lot of flak on social media where people responded that he was promoting a toxic work culture. Deshpande apologised a week later, stating he should have been nuanced and given additional context in the post.

Deshpande is not alone in asking people to put in more hours. Several individuals who replied to his post agreed with his point on asking young workers to put in more hours. In 2020, Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy suggested Indians work 64 hours a week for two to three years to compensate for the economic slowdown caused by COVID-19 related lockdowns.

A movement sans unions

Opinions of Schofield, Deshpande, and Murthy are shunned by a large proportion of young workers who are facing collaboration overload, compensation stagnation, and a poor work-life balance. Instead, Gen Z and millennial workers are quitting quietly. But unlike the dock workers and railroad employees of the twentieth century, this crop of employees do not have an organised union to take their demands forward to find a lasting solution. At best, their digital movement *sans* the backing of a union can be a vent to their anger and frustration on crucial issues in today's tech-enabled workplaces. But that expression alone cannot cure the malaise.

Perhaps, employers can address this issue by ensuring Gen Z and millennials get an enriching professional life. Creating a culture of good work-life balance coupled with appropriate compensation and opportunities to learn and grow in the current roles can enable a deeper sense of belonging for young workers. If done right, companies can reap a rich reward from their coordinated action as it can improve employee retention rate. Deloitte's survey found "an increase in loyalty" in young workers as many switched jobs over in 2021. This year, the report noted, millennials are more likely to stay beyond five years rather than leave within the next two.

For insights on emerging themes at the intersection of technology, business and policy, subscribe to our tech newsletter Today's Cache. bit.ly/hindutechcache

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Fat chance of getting me to stop reading!

I do not have the bandwidth to practise my language right now. But I will do it anyway just to keep my nose clean!

S.Upendran

"You seem to be worried about something. Is there a problem?"

"I don't have a problem. But Ravi does! Saw him this morning, and the poor chap really needs our help. Why don't you get him a job in your company?"

"Please don't talk to me about him. I've helped him several times in the past. Right now, I don't have the bandwidth to deal with Ravi and his problems."

"Bandwidth? What are you talking about?"

"The word 'bandwidth' is used in everyday contexts to mean different things. When I say that I don't have the bandwidth to deal with Ravi's problems, it means that I don't have the time or the energy to deal with Ravi and his innumerable problems. Here's an example. *After a five-kilometre walk, I didn't have the bandwidth to play tennis with my friends*."

"Meaning, you didn't have the energy to play tennis. How about this example? *If you want us to help you with the campaign, please get back to us after two months. Right now, we don't have the bandwidth to take on any new project*."

"Meaning that you don't have the time. That's a good example. The word can also be used to refer to someone's mental capacity."

"In other words, his ability to do something. His intelligence."

"Very good! I don't think Ravi has the bandwidth to deal with complicated tasks. He'll need help."

"It's true that he may not have the bandwidth to do it all by himself, but with some help from you and your friends, I'm sure..."

"You want me to help Ravi again? Fat chance of that happening!"

"Fat chance? Does it mean there's no chance of it happening?"

"That's right! The expression 'fat chance' is mostly used in informal contexts to mean 'little or no chance'."

"In other words, you'll not be helping Ravi."

"Right! Here's an example. *There's fat chance of my company hiring someone like Ravi*."

"My cousin Vinita wants to become a fast bowler. But she's only five feet tall. Fat chance that she'll ever become a fast bowler."

"Good example. Now then, what do you think of..."

"I still think you should help Ravi get a job."

"I've done that several times in the past, but the chap has never been able to keep his nose clean."

"You mean to say that he lost his job because his nose was always dirty? That's a silly reason...."

"When you tell someone to keep his nose clean, you're asking him to stay out of trouble. To follow all rules, and not do anything wrong or illegal."

"In other words, you want him to behave."

"Exactly! Here's an example. *The principal has warned you twice already. I assure you, if you don't keep your nose clean, you'll be suspended*."

"I've kept my nose clean by not associating with the troublemakers in my class."

"That's a good example.

"Ravi has been keeping his nose clean. Anyway, a few of us are collecting money to help him. Would you be interested in contributing?"

"Fat chance of that happening."

There are no bad pictures, that's just how your face looks sometimes.

-Abraham Lincoln

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this date, 53 years ago, 'Abbey Road', the last recorded album by The Beatles, was released. A quiz on the Fab Four's various albums.

QUESTION 1
Which is the only original Beatles album, released in 1964, that was made up of only Lennon-McCartney compositions?

QUESTION 2
The various names considered for this album, which won a Grammy for Best Album Cover, were 'Abracadabra', 'After Geography', 'Fat Man and Bobby', and 'Four Sides Of The Eternal Triangle'. Name the album.

QUESTION 3
In the famous 'Abbey Road' album cover, which Beatle is walking barefoot?

QUESTION 4
Which much-admired album sleeve was designed by Klaus Voormann, an old friend of The Beatles from their Hamburg days?

QUESTION 5
The U.S. sleeve of which album had a fictional biography of 'Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band'?

QUESTION 6
Which album cover had the Fab Four doing semaphore signals?

Visual Question:
If John had his way, which famous Indian would have featured on this iconic cover? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In this game, players complete lines by moving differently shaped pieces. Once the completed lines disappear, the player gets points. **Ans: Tetris**
2. This game is about a pirate cat who sets on a quest to find an ancient amulet while fighting enemies. **Ans: Claw**
3. This is a text-based game where the player assumes the role of a wagon leader guiding a party of settlers in the U.S. **Ans: The Oregon Trail**
4. This is a third-person shooter game that centres on a former detective who attempts to solve the murder of his family while investigating a drug trafficking case. **Ans: Max Payne**
5. This is a futuristic racing video game where players compete in the F3600 anti-gravity racing league. **Ans: Wipeout**
6. This is a music video game which allows players to simulate the performance of popular rock songs by playing with controllers modelled after musical instruments. **Ans: Rock Band**
Visual: The original name of the game and the name of its hero. **Ans: Donkey Kong; Mario**
Early Birds: Yatharth Dohare| K. N. Viswanathan
Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

Word of the day

Convivial:
occupied with or fond of the pleasures of good company

Synonyms:
jovial, good

Usage: *There was quite a convivial atmosphere at the reunion*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/convivialpro

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

From Page One

President Murmu on a three-day visit to State

Before heading to Bengaluru in the evening, the President will inaugurate the new campus of Indian Institute of Information Technology in Dharwad. On Tuesday, the President will inaugurate Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICEMF) and lay the foundation stone (in a virtual programme) for the Zonal Institute of Virology (South Zone) of the National Institute of Virology at HAL, and will inaugurate St. Joseph's University.

Later, she will be given a civic reception at Raj Bhavan and take part in the State Banquet. She will return to Delhi on Wednesday morning.

108 ambulance services hit owing to glitch

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, who called upon the people not to panic, said the Health Department is trying to ensure that people are not put to hardship.

"District officials have been asked to put in place a contingency plan and ensure unhindered service," he said.

The Minister said all hospitals have been directed to prioritise inter-facility transfer of patients. "We have also directed all the 108 ambulance staff to respond immediately to patients if anyone calls them on their personal numbers. We have asked them to create manual IDs and provide emergency service to the needy," he said.

President to open a grander Mysuru Dasara

Though the festival is celebrated across India, Dasara in Mysuru is a legacy of the Vijayanagar emperors who ruled between the 14th and 17th centuries.

The grandeur of the Navaratri as celebrated by the Vijayanagar rulers have been described by medieval travellers like Abdur Razzak of Persia, who visited Vijayanagar between 1442 and 1443; Domingo Paes (1520-22) and Fernao Nuniz (1535-37) from Portugal, who have given eyewitness accounts of the 'great feast of Bisnaga' (for Vijayanagar).

This tradition was inherited by the Wadiyars of Mysuru, and Raja Wadiyar who ascended the throne in 1610 CE at Srirangapatana, ordained that Navaratri be celebrated on a grand scale.

CM distances himself from caste angle given to 'PayCM' campaign

He says selfish Congress leaders are sacrificing State's interest by tarnishing image just to return to power; Siddaramaiah hits back asking what's the relationship between caste and corruption

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaking to reporters at Mysuru Airport on Sunday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the midst of the 'PayCM' campaign getting embroiled in a caste angle, the Congress has been expanding its scope beyond Bengaluru even as Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai distanced himself from the Lingayat caste angle being projected against it. The campaign was started by the Congress to highlight the alleged corruption in the government.

While Mr. Bommai refused to attach caste angle to the Congress's campaign, he told reporters in Mysuru that it was being done by selfish Congress leaders who are ready to sacrifice the State's interest by tarnishing the image just to come back to power. "Some persons may have spoken about it (giving caste angle to PayCM campaign) in a fit of anger, but I am not in it. There was ample opportunity for everyone to discuss the issue in the House, but they did not have material to discuss. So they (Congress) resolved to this low level campaign," he said.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah asked what the relationship between caste and corruption was. "Contractors have been raising the issue for one year now. How does caste come into picture if we raise the corruption issue in the Assembly? Did Prime Minister Narendra Modi accuse my government of 10% commission because I am a Kuruba? His accusations are baseless."

Accusing the BJP of covering up their mistakes and corruption by giving the anti-corruption campaign a caste colour, the former Chief Minister asked: "The BJP has brought out a booklet on me that is full of lies. Should I also say that they did it because I am Kuruba?"

When his attention was drawn towards Congress replacing its then Chief Minister Veerendra Patil, a Lingayat, he said: "Veeerendra Patil was sick. Who forced former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to step down? Why did they not appoint Mr. Yediyurappa's son Vijayendra as a Minister?" His response came to an accusation from a section of Veerashaiava-Lingayat community that Congress was against Lingayats.

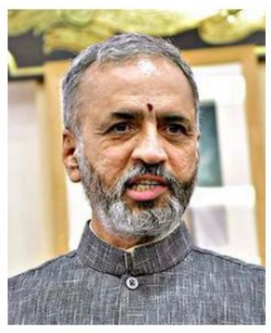
Health Minister K. Sudhakar on Saturday indicated that PayCM campaign was targeted because he belonged to the Lingayat community

In Mysuru

While Congress workers pasted the posters of PayCM in Mysuru on Sunday to coincide with the visit of Mr. Bommai for Dasara inauguration, the campaign has also found resonance in other parts. Case has been filed against seven persons in Mysuru.

The PayCM campaign has taken place in Madikeri, Tumakuru, Yadgir, and Ballari. It has been done voluntarily in several places in the State.

CORRIDORS OF POWER



Promoting khadi

With Gandhi Jayanti around the corner, the State government through Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri (*in picture*) made an appeal to members and the public at large to buy khadi products to mark the day.

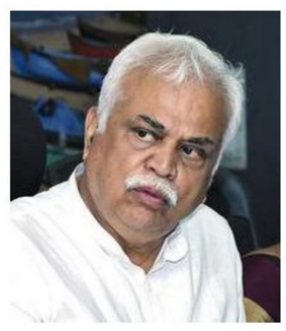
As more than 20,000 weavers have suffered during COVID-19, Mr. Kageri, who read out a statement on behalf of the government, appealed to members to visit khadi showrooms and buy products. More than 200 khadi products are available and members can make the industry self-reliant by purchasing products manufactured by weavers. Mahatma Gandhi's Gram Swaraj and khadi's glory can be brought back only through purchasing and promoting khadi products, the Speaker said.

Blame game

Karnataka has many speciality and super-speciality hospitals and about 60 private and government-run universities, but Uttara Kannada district, largely covered by the forests, has neither a super-speciality hospital nor a university. All dispensations have neglected the district, claimed members during the debate in the Legislative Assembly last week.

The government cleared a Bill related to eight new State universities, including one for Kodagu, but denied the same to Uttara Kannada district. This led to many members venting their ire against the government. Senior member R.V. Deshpande (*in picture*), who has been Minister for several years in many governments, too spoke and demanded a solution.

Immediately, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy sprang up



and demanded to know what Mr. Deshpande had done during his tenure. The former Minister insisted he had set up an engineering college and other institutions. Not that it impressed many members.

Nagesh Prabhu
Sharath S. Srivatsa

In reverence

Hindus perform rituals for their ancestors during Pitrupaksha Amavasya in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Farmers to protest at Singhu border on November 26

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Samyuktha Kisan Morcha leaders, who met in Bengaluru on Sunday, have decided to stage a dharna at Singhu border on November 26 after they agreed to reject the committee that has been set up to suggest on minimum support price.

"The government has set up a committee, promising that a legislation to guarantee MSP for agricultural produce will be introduced. The committee has been set up keeping farmers outside. We have decided to reject the committee report," farmer leader Kurubur Shanthkumar told presspersons here on Sunday after participating in a round table conference comprising leaders from farming community from across the nation.

"We have also decided to intensify farmers movements in the country. The legislation guaranteeing MSP has to be implemented along with the Dr. Swaminathan Committee recommendations," he said. He also said that the proposed amendment to Power Act should be dropped and the sugarcane prices should be fixed scientifically besides abolishing GST on agro products.

Withdraw cases

While demanding withdrawal of cases against farmers, who participated in the Delhi protest, the round table has also urged the government to fulfil the promise of compensation to the families of 750 farmers who died during the protest. Meanwhile, sugarcane farmers are taking out a rally in Bengaluru on Monday against privatisation of power sector, and to highlight the problems of sugarcane farmers.

Combing operations launched to trap tiger

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

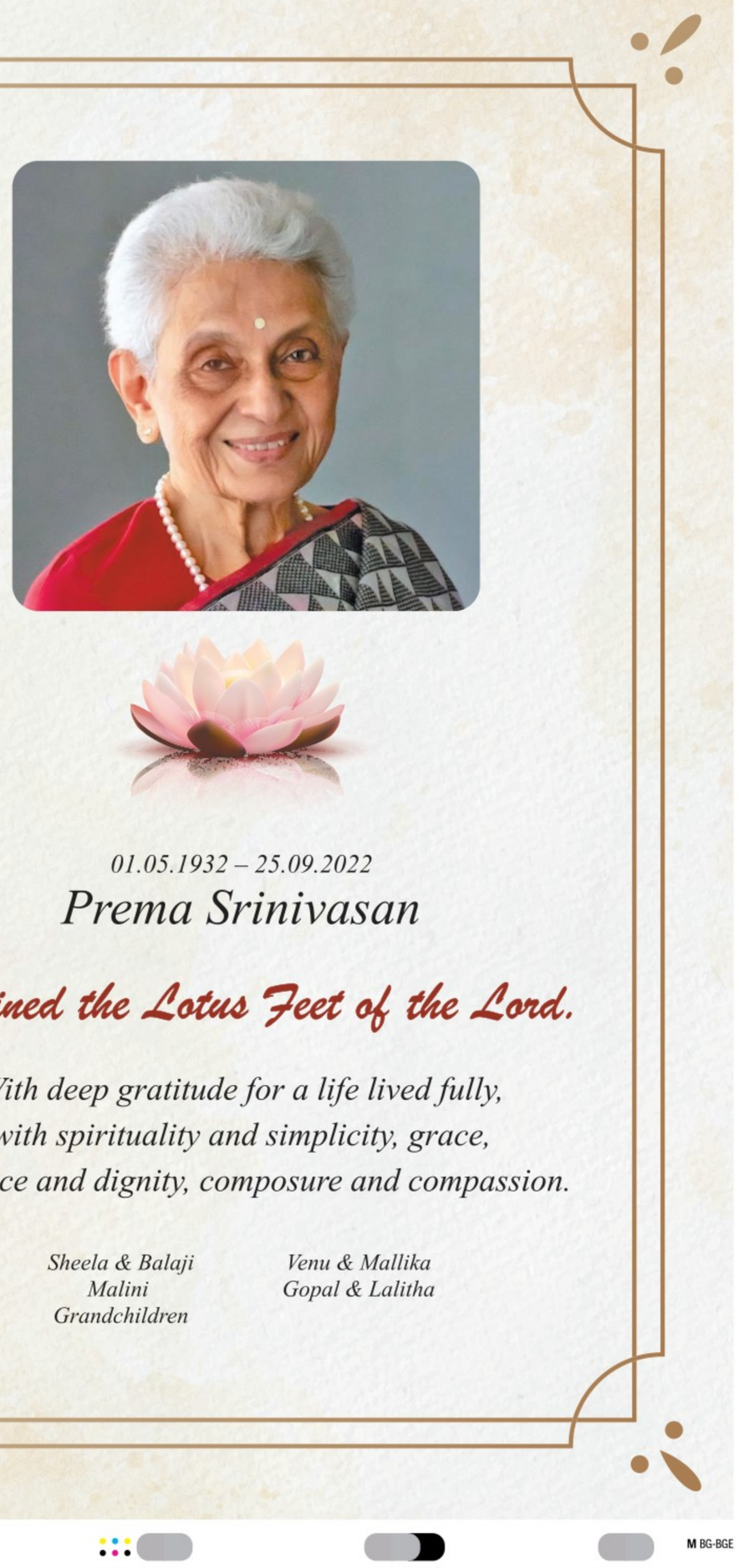
A combing operation was launched on Sunday to trap a tiger that killed one person in Ponnampet taluk of Kodagu on Saturday. Three elephants have been deployed for combing.

B.N.N. Murthy, Conservator of Forests, said the estate where the attack took place was hardly 400 m from Kalahalla range of the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.

Industrial Land & Building FOR SALE

Two acres land in SIPCOT Irungattukottai Industrial Park, along with RCC framed building with foundation for G + 2. Built-up area 54,300 sq.ft. - GF 45,250 sq.ft. and FF 9,050 sq.ft. GF fully constructed with shop floor and office. FF partially constructed. Ready Power with installed transformer and sanctioned load of 275 KVA. Large capacity water tank, adequate toilets, creche, provision for lift. Property is East Facing and ready to use.

Interested Parties can contact :
R. RAVISHANKAR : 9381086646
Email: rrraagbs@gmail.com



01.05.1932 – 25.09.2022

Prema Srinivasan

Attained the Lotus Feet of the Lord.

With deep gratitude for a life lived fully,
with spirituality and simplicity, grace,
elegance and dignity, composure and compassion.

Sheela & Balaji
Malini
Grandchildren

Venu & Mallika
Gopal & Lalitha

'Will fight raids and arrests legally'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

PFI Tamil Nadu unit president Mohamed Shaik Ansari on Sunday said the organisation had resolved to fight the NIA action against its functionaries "legally and democratically".

Against the backdrop of Molotov cocktail attacks on properties of BJP and RSS functionaries, he claimed that right wing organisations had a tendency to fake such attacks for political gain. [The police on Sunday arrested some functionaries of the SDPI, an affiliate of the PFI, in connection with some of these incidents, and contended that their role was established based on CCTV camera footage.]

Aryadan Mohammed passes away

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

Veteran Congress leader and former Kerala Minister Aryadan Mohammed, 87, died at a private hospital in Kozhikode on Sunday morning. An iconic political figure of Eranad, Aryadan represented the Nilambur constituency in the Assembly for 34 years in eight terms. He was Minister for four terms.

He will be interred at the Mukkatta Juma Masjid graveyard on Monday.

'Reduce number of stray dogs on streets to manageable levels'

Siri Jagan panel, in its status report, tells the Supreme Court that the number of strays will not be reduced by the implementation of the Animal Birth Control programme alone; court to pass interim order on September 28

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The Justice S. Siri Jagan Committee has reiterated its suggestion to "reduce the number of stray dogs in the streets to manageable levels" in its status report to the Supreme Court. The apex court had sought the report from the committee early this month while considering the case related to dog bites.

The Supreme Court will pass an interim order on the issue on September 28. Though the panel had submitted five recommendations to the top court in 2016, no orders were passed on it, the panel said. The committee blamed the local bodies for the poor implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, which according to it, resulted in the exponential increase in the stray dog population. Even if the ABC programme is implemented straight away, it may take three to four years for the results to show. The dogs subjected to ABC are released back in the same locality. Hence, the number of animals will not be reduced on the streets by implementation of the programme alone and people will continue to suffer stray dog bites. So, the number of stray dogs on the street shall be urgently reduced to a manageable levels, reasoned the panel.

The panel had cautioned six years ago that people may take law into their hands and start culling dogs, if stray dog population is not reduced to manageable levels.People in some places have now resorted to such steps under the leadership of local body authorities, it pointed out. The report also suggested training and deployment of sufficient number of dog-catchers to implement the ABC rules.

Ubiquitous presence: Stray dogs lurk in the Fort Kochi heritage zone. With civic agencies doing little, the fear is rife that the menace will turn away tourists. H. VIBHU

Hubballi police book 11 people after man complains that he was forced to convert

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Hubballi police have registered a complaint against 11 people, including a Muslim cleric, on the charge of forcibly converting a Hindu man to Islam.

Sridhar Gangadhar, a resident of Yadavanahalli in Mandya district, has filed a complaint with the Nava Nagar police saying that the accused forced him to undergo circumcision and converted him to Islam.

He has named Attavar Rehman of Mandya, Azeesab of Bengaluru and Nayaz Pasha, Nadeem Khan, Ansar Pasha, Syed Dastagir, Mohammad Iqbal, Rafiq, Shabbir, Khalid, Shakeel and Altaf in his complaint.

According to the complaint filed on Saturday, the accused took the victim to Bengaluru. They kept him confined in a mosque in Banashankari there. Then, they started preaching Islam to him.

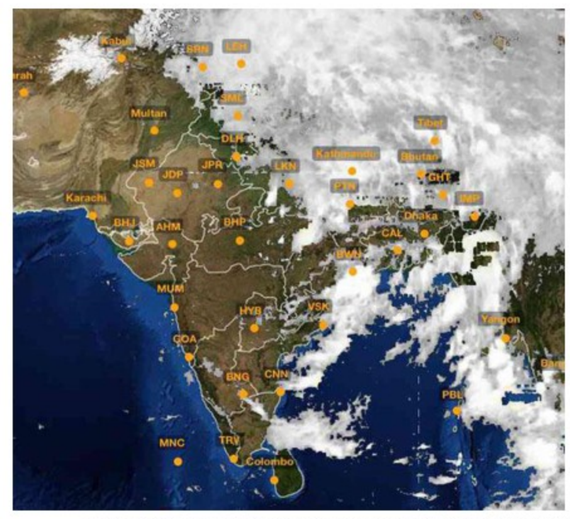
They forced him to eat beef and assaulted him. After the circumcision was performed by a quack, the victim developed complications, including bleeding and painful injuries with abscess. "They also forced me to sign an affidavit saying that it was a wilful conversion and gave me a target to convert three people every year to Islam," the complainant said.

According to the complaint, the accused forced him to hold a pistol in his hand and took a photo of him with the weapon. They also forced him to transfer ₹35,000 to their bank account.

When the victim came to Hubballi to meet a woman, who he met online, he was attacked by unidentified men in Bhairidevarakoppa. He got himself admitted to KIMS Hospital later. That is why he decided to file a complaint in Hubballi, he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Tamil Nadu. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places likely over Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Marathwada, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.0	33.0	25.2	Kozhikode	—	33.2	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	33.3	24.2	Kurnool	2.0	34.2	24.4
Aizawl	3.0	—	20.9	Lucknow	4.4	31.3	25.1
Allahabad	0.3	30.5	26.2	Madurai	0.7	37.1	24.1
Bengaluru	9.6	28.9	19.6	Mangaluru	7.2	29.8	23.0
Bhopal	—	—	21.2	Mumbai	0.8	31.1	24.1
Bhubaneswar	46.0	32.7	24.2	Mysuru	—	30.9	20.6
Chandigarh	103.6	26.9	23.7	New Delhi	24.0	27.2	22.4
Chennai	—	35.5	26.6	Patna	7.0	33.1	25.8
Coimbatore	1.0	33.0	22.1	Port Blair	11.0	31.4	24.2
Dehradun	—	—	21.0	Puducherry	2.1	38.0	24.3
Gangtok	15.0	19.5	17.1	Pune	—	29.8	22.0
Goa	3.0	30.6	23.4	Raipur	—	30.6	23.2
Guwahati	—	32.0	25.6	Ranchi	0.4	30.2	23.2
Hubballi	—	30.0	18.0	Shillong	4.0	23.5	15.9
Hyderabad	—	30.6	21.5	Shimla	37.0	18.3	13.8
Imphal	—	29.3	20.7	Srinagar	—	28.4	15.8
Jaipur	0.6	30.8	23.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.3	23.8
Kochi	—	30.6	25.0	Tiruchi	—	37.1	25.6
Kohima	17.0	25.2	16.4	Vijayawada	—	35.0	25.6
Kolkata	3.0	34.6	26.8	Visakhapatnam	—	33.8	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.31	.54	.40	52	81	
Bengaluru	.7	.35	.37	34	89	
Chennai	.10	.21	101	21	49	
Delhi	.—	.7	104	28	34	
Hyderabad	.6	.6	.14	119	73	
Kolkata	.5	.32	.6	40	50	
Lucknow	.8	.26	.13	47	74	
Mumbai	.—	117	.41	14	18	
Pune	.—	.—	.—	—	—	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.57	.22	71	131	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 158 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Kalaburgi, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Light and shadow

Festive night: Pooram Padayani being held at the Neelamperoor Palli Bhagavathi temple near Kurichy, Kottayam in Kerala. The key feature of this festival is the procession of effigies of animals such as swan and elephants. VISHNU PRATHAP

Telangana gears up to present strong case at Home Ministry's meeting

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is gearing up to present a strong case in support of its stand on bifurcation issues pending between the two Telugu States, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, during the meeting convened by the Union Home Ministry on Tuesday.

The Union Home Ministry has called for the meeting to discuss bilateral issues like division of Schedule IX and X institutions, apportionment of institutions not mentioned in the A.P. Reorganisation Act, and division of assets and liabilities of the erstwhile A.P. State Finance Corporation, among others. Interestingly, the division of Singareni Collieries Company Limited and its associated firm A.P. Heavy Machinery Engineering Limited too, figured in the agenda circulated by the Union Ministry.

Conflicting interests: A protest in Vijayawada during the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana bifurcation in 2014. FILE PHOTO

No scope to claim

The State had been contending that SCCL belongs to Telangana on a location basis, as specified in the Act, and there was no scope for the neighbouring State to stake claim on its assets.

"We are hopeful that the matter will end once and for all after the meeting," a senior official said.

The Andhra Pradesh government has deputed a 10-member team of senior secretaries, including special chief secretaries of Finance, Energy and Municipal Administration departments, to attend the meeting.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar is likely to lead the Telangana delegation comprising senior officials of State Reorganisation affairs, energy and other departments to present the State's case in the meeting.

The agenda included bilateral issues like division of cash and bank balance (funds under centrally sponsored schemes/expenditure on common institutions/public debt pertaining to externally aided projects), cash credit amount due to A.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited from its Telangana counterpart.

Tax incentives as assured in the Reorganisation Act, development grant for seven backward districts covering Rayalaseema and north coastal Andhra, resource gap, removal of anomaly in taxation matters and central support to creation of new capital city for A.P., are among the other issues listed for discussion in the agenda.

Student suffers burn at hostel mess

The Hindu Bureau
KHAMMAM

A Class 8 student of Mahatma Jyothiba Phule Backward Classes Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (MJPTBCW)'s Gurukul school for boys, in Wyra, Telangana suffered burns after hot sambar accidentally fell on him at the hostel mess at Raghunadhapalem on Saturday.

The incident has turned the spotlight on the 'shortcomings' in functioning of the Gurukul school system.

Bharat Jodo Yatra continues, Cong. workers protest over LPG price hike

Press Trust of India
THRISSUR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday resumed the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Thiroor in Kerala accompanied by hundreds of party workers holding banners and placards against the high cooking gas prices in the country.

The morning session of the 150-day-long yatra will cover a distance of around 11 km before concluding at Wadakkanchery in Thrissur around 11 a.m.

The Congress asks people to join it in its 'historic movement to rebuild a strong India'

Senior Congress leaders including K. Muraleedharan, K.C. Venugopal, Ramesh Chennithala, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan and MPs from the district among others joined Mr. Gandhi on his walk. The Congress workers were carrying placards in the shape of gas cylinders highlighting steep cooking gas prices in the country.

'Spreading hate'

Mr. Gandhi had on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the rise in fuel and cooking gas prices, and charged the BJP and the RSS with "spreading hate and violence to distract people from important issues."

"A gas cylinder used to cost ₹400 when the UPA government was in power. The Prime Minister went on complaining about the ₹400 for gas cylinders. But today he doesn't say a word about the ₹1,000 for gas cylinders," the Congress leader had said while addressing the crowd at Thrissur.

The Congress on Sunday asked the people to join it in its "historic movement as we march on to rebuild an India that is strong, self-reliant and among the leaders of the world."

Doctor and his two children killed in fire in home clinic

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

A medical practitioner and his two children died in a fire that engulfed their new hospital-cum-residence building at Renigunta in Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Dr. Ravishankar Reddy, a radiologist, who was residing on the second floor of the Karthika hospital building, his son Bharat (12) and daughter Kartika (7).

Fire engulfs hospital building in Renigunta early Sunday morning. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The entire floor caught fire around 3.30 a.m. reportedly due to electric short circuit. The fire and police personnel rushed to the spot and launched rescue operations.

While Dr. Reddy was charred to death, the children were immediately rushed for treatment to Tirupati, but they succumbed en route.

Dr. Reddy's wife Dr. Anantha Lakshmi, who is a practitioner of general medicine, had a miraculous escape as she was staying with her mother on the first floor at the time of the mishap.

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Violent front

The PFI invokes the Constitution and engages in violence at the same time

On September 22, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested over 100 leaders and activists of the radical Islamist outfit, the Popular Front of India (PFI), after raids in 15 States. The PFI claims to be a 'neo-social movement', but its rhetoric and activities have left little doubt about its true nature. The latest demonstration of its violent, and threatening, character was seen the next day after the raids, when it called for a *hartal*. The PFI continuously invokes the Constitution, democratic values and rule of law, but all that cannot camouflage the violence in its action and speech as unleashed in Kerala last week. Kerala is its cradle and launch pad. Extremely provocative slogans and speeches formed part of the protest. The PFI and the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) which acts as its political front, often deny their association, as unconvincingly as their claims of being on the right side of the law and democracy. The NIA has accused the PFI and its affiliates of conspiring to foment hostility between different religions and groups, thereby disrupting public tranquillity and causing disaffection against India. The agency, which has so far registered 19 PFI-related cases, charge-sheeted 355 people and secured the conviction of 46, has charged them with propagating an alternative justice delivery system justifying violence, instigating vulnerable youth to join banned terror outfits such as al-Qaeda and conspiring to establish Islamic rule in India.

During these searches on the outfit and its members, the NIA claims to have seized a hit list of prominent leaders of a particular community. Going by the claims of the enforcement agencies, the outfit has been continuously indulging in unlawful activities, ever since the Narath arms training case of 2013 in which members of the PFI and SDPI were convicted for organising a terrorist camp with the intent to train youth in explosives and weapons use. In 2020, some PFI members were arrested for their alleged role in inciting people during the Delhi riots. The outfit also faces the charge of raising money domestically and overseas to fund its operations, thus attracting money laundering investigations by the Enforcement Directorate. As it turns out, the rise of the PFI-SDPI axis is being resisted by moderate Muslim organisations. These outfits are profiting from the sense of insecurity among Muslims caused by Hindutva aggression and allied Government measures that seem prejudiced and fuelled by majoritarian politics. The state must act against radicalism of all kinds, rather than being selective in its approach to communal hate.

Over the top

The Govt. must upgrade its thinking on privacy before digital apps control

The draft telecommunication Bill, put out last week for public comments, hints at a disturbing governmental pursuit, for more control over a range of digital applications and over-the-top streaming services that millions of Indians use daily. It seeks to do this by bringing them under the ambit of telecommunication services, the operation of which would require a licence – that is if the draft provisions do go through. This means the likes of WhatsApp, Zoom, and Netflix will be considered telecommunication services. And so would a whole range of digital services that are anyway regulated by the IT Act. This, the Government wants to do, by a wide expansion of the definition of what constitutes a telecom service. The new definition includes everything from broadcasting services to electronic mail, from voice mail to voice, video and data communication services, from Internet and broadband services to over-the-top communication services, including those that the Government may notify separately.

It is all well to state, as the Government has done, that the country requires a new legal framework, and not the existing one that is based on the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, to deal with the realities of the 21st century. But, it is not just technology that has evolved in over a century but also a democratic society's understanding and expectations of user rights, privacy and transparency. Not long ago, the highest court in the country acknowledged a citizen's right to privacy as a fundamental right. This draft, however, disappoints on the above counts. According to it, for instance, the Government has the powers to prevent a message from being transmitted "on the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of the public safety". Another clause in the draft Bill requires an entity that has been granted a licence to "unequivocally identify the person to whom it provides services". A similar clause under the IT rules brought in last year – requiring messaging apps to "enable the identification of the first originator of the information on its computer resource" – has been challenged in the Court. There are enough valid reasons to doubt whether this is even technically possible without breaking encryption and making all communications vulnerable. While this is not to underplay the mounting challenges for ensuring security, the repeated attempts by the Government to be able to tap into all kinds of communication, without making sure the common man has a legal armour in the form of a data protection law, is extremely problematic. The Government needs to upgrade its thinking on users and privacy. This draft needs to go back to the drawing board.

Soft power, the new race every country wants to win

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Success in international sporting events does have a positive effect, which India must note

"Soft power", as American political scientist Joseph Nye Jr. said in the late 1980s, is a "power of attraction through culture, political ideas, and policies rather than coercion" that military hard power exhibits. This is now being reflected in increased interest, especially by smaller nations in the world, in investing more and doing well in elite sports as it is thought that success in international sporting events boosts a nation's chances of attaining soft power.

So, it can be said that the golden period of Indian sports may have begun – the Tokyo Olympics and then the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG) are examples of a good performance. Neeraj Chopra who won an Olympic gold medal in men's javelin throw is now a household name. At the CWG 2022, Indian athletes won 61 medals, including 22 golds. These medals not only provide pride to every Indian citizen but also demonstrate the country's soft power on the global stage and encourage working towards the status of a great "geopolitical actor".

A survey

Until recently there has been no empirical evidence whether performance in the Olympics or other world championships improved soft power or not.

When Dongfeng Liu (International Professor of Sport Management for the Shanghai campus of the Sport Business School) surveyed French citizens in 2020 (he was also International Professor, Sport Business School, France) on China's performance in the Olympics and their impressions about China based on its rising medal count, he found that a country's Olympic achievement has a positive effect on its national soft power.

He issued a caveat: as China is a communist country, there tends to be a prejudiced view of its human rights record and the standing of its minorities, which does not result in a positive perception of China, or for that matter, even Russia or North Korea. It is very difficult for these countries to build "branding" for themselves. As India is a democratic country it may not have to worry about such factors. Even so, it might yet learn lessons from China's case.

China uses its superiority in elite sports to build "people-to-people" relations with other countries. For example, athletes from African countries such as Madagascar are trained in swimming, badminton, table tennis, etc. in China, which helps Beijing create a positive impact on a wider population and result in better formal relations as well. There is also China's memorandum of understanding with countries such as Kenya so that Chinese runners can train with Kenyan athletes, as they are among the best in the world when it comes to long-distance running.

India's tortoise-like walk

India's medal tally in the Tokyo Olympics Games – seven – was its most decorated Olympic Games in Indian history. But there is no hiding the fact that India has one of the world's poorest population-to-medal ratios when it comes to the Olympics. An article, "Indian Olympic medal winners: A comprehensive list" shows that India has won 35 medals at the Olympics since the 1900 edition. With a population of 1.3 billion-plus people, there are various reasons for India's disappointing performance. Professional engagement in sports is hampered by the relatively low and scant exposure of Indians to sports at the elementary school level.

In September 2014, the Ministry of Sports launched the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) to improve India's performance at the Olympics and Paralympics – there is extra monetary assistance and training from the best national and international coaches. India's gradual success in sporting events is being attributed to these "policies."

In 2016, a NITI Aayog report came up with a 20-point plan to improve India's Olympics performance. The report said India still lacks a favourable atmosphere for sports to polish the skills of early-stage athletes. It recommended efforts to be made at the family, community to school, regional academies, State and national levels to improve things. Ensuring competent coaches, and having adequate funding and more sports academics still remain major issues even decades later. A reply in Parliament (2018) said that India spends only three paise per day per capita on sports. In contrast, China spends ₹6.1 per day per capita.

Mega sporting events generate viewership in their billions. So they provide a platform for countries to showcase their culture, values and tradition.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) claimed that the Tokyo Olympic Games was watched by over 3.05 billion people, 'a 74 per cent increase in digital viewers from Rio 2016'. This proves that there is a great opportunity for India to use such events as a platform to enhance its soft power that relies on its cultural heritage.

The Government must also move quickly to separate politics from sports. Former players, rather than politicians, should be chosen to lead sports organisations.

Marching forward

Here are some recommendations for the Indian government to increase the country's sporting performance and soft power.

First, India should concentrate on forging MoUs with nations that excel in specific sports. The aim should be to train Indian players overseas. For example, Australia and the United Kingdom can assist us in swimming given their standing here. When it comes to running, negotiating collaborative training agreements with African countries such as Kenya would be ideal. There should be no politics in seeking or even offering assistance. Take this example too: China has requested Indian assistance in improving cricket development in China (Chongqing city).

Second, TOPS – China too also had a similar scheme – has demonstrated that focusing on a few sports is beneficial for a country such as India, which is striving to enhance its sporting abilities and standing. India needs to boost the number of athletes under TOPS – at least 500 athletes should train under the scheme to foster a competitive climate, in turn aiding performance.

Third, private investment needs to be harnessed to develop infrastructure. The better a country performs in sporting events the greater a sports person's interest in their sports atmosphere. This also creates a huge market for private players to invest in. For example, leading corporate houses in India have already shown how their active participation and investment can improve sporting performance as a result of unique corporate sports programmes. The Government should also work on a public-private partnership (PPP) model to create basic sporting infrastructure, as recommended by NITI Aayog, at the district level so that talent can be captured at an early stage. Soft power is not an end but a means to an end.

REUTERS

A ground plan for India's reformed multilateralism

Harsh V. Pant

is Vice-President for Studies at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi and Professor at King's College London

Vivek Mishra

is a Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation

New Delhi's call for a structural overhaul of global multilateral institutions incorporates institutional accountability and a wider representation of the developing countries

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to the United States (September 18-28) has set the stage for an expansive range of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy by India. It is a unique visit as it seeks to achieve a vast list of objectives led by the Indian delegation's participation in the High-Level Week at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which opened on September 13.

Perhaps the only precedent to the Minister's current 11-day whirlwind diplomacy is his 2019 visit to the General Assembly, followed by a policy outreach comprising seven think-tanks in seven days in Washington DC. Even so, this year's diplomatic agendas and international setting separate it from earlier years in quite a few ways. Coming just after the recently concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet in Samarkand, which was attended by the Prime Minister, India's varied multilateral engagements showcase a road map for India's renewed multilateral diplomacy.

Overhauling the Security Council

At the heart of India's participation in the 77th General Assembly is the call for a 'reformed multilateralism' through which the United Nations Security Council should reform itself into a more inclusive organisation representing the contemporary realities of today. India's call for this structural overhaul of global multilateral institutions incorporates institutional accountability and a wider representation of the developing countries.

For a global organisation such as the UN, growing stakes of developing countries in the Security Council could foster trust and leadership across the world. The theme of the 77th General Assembly, which seeks "A watershed moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges", places India right in the midst as a strong partner of the UN.

At least three recent global developments reflective of the UN's functional evaluation have stood out in India's quest for a reform of the UN. The COVID-19 pandemic was a weak moment for UN's multilateralism. It highlighted the UN's institutional limitations when countries closed their borders, supply chains were interrupted and almost every country was in need of vaccines. Countries of the global South, including India, which stepped up through relief efforts, drug distribution and vaccine manufacturing, have created space for a more inclusive UN, particularly through its Security Council (UNSC) reform.

The UN's faultlines

Second, UN-led multilateralism has been unable to provide strong mechanisms to prevent wars. The shadow of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has loomed large over several deadlocks in UNSC resolutions since the war broke out in February this year. With the West boycotting Russia, the veto provision of the UNSC is expected to reach an even more redundant level than in the past. As such, a reformed multilateralism with greater representation could generate deeper regional stakes to prevent wars.

Finally, China's rise, belligerence and aggression which has been on display through its actions in the South China Sea, the Indo-Pacific region, and now increasingly globally, have also underscored the limitations of the UN-style multilateralism. China's growing dominance could lead it to carve its own multilateral matrix circumventing the West, economically and strategically. The international isolation of Russia and Iran as well as increasing the United States' Taiwan-related steps could usher in these changes more rapidly than expected.

China's control of multilateral organisations, including the UN, is only increasing – most recently seen in the unofficial pressure China exerted on the former UN's human rights chief, Michelle Bachelet, to stop the release of a report by the UN Human Rights Council on the condition of Uyghurs in China. Moreover, China's unabashed use of veto power against India continues at the UN.

In the most recent case, it blocked a joint India-U.S. proposal at the UN to enlist Sajid Mir, a top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative involved in directing the 2008 Mumbai attacks, as a 'global terrorist'.

Consistent with the changing times, India's call for reform of the UNSC has grown in the past few years. In this regard, Mr. Jaishankar's hosting of a ministerial meeting of the G4 (Brazil, India, Germany and Japan) holds special significance. Another high-level meeting of the Indian delegation with the L.69 Group, on "Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council", will be critical in the planning of the next steps. The L.69 group's vast membership spread over Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and Small Island Developing States could bring about a wider global consensus on the issue of the UNSC reforms.

In focus

India's emphasis on reinvigorated multilateralism coincides with a critical juncture in the UN-led multilateralism. Just as burden-sharing has become integral to evolving multilateralism between regional countries, the UN could integrate such practices within its institutional ambit. In the past few years, the UN's responses to both global and regional events have evinced a clear space for leadership and representation, as much as they have depicted its institutional inability to lead globally on its own. With starker divisions between countries as result of the Russia-Ukraine war and lingering pandemic-induced restrictions, the need for the UN's reform is likely to be felt more palpably than ever before.

Beyond the UN, the Minister's participation in plurilateral meetings of the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, the U.S.), IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), Presidency Pro Tempore CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), India-CARICOM (Caribbean Community) and other trilateral formats, such as India-France-Australia, India-France-the United Arab Emirates and India-Indonesia-Australia underlines India's search for new frameworks of global governance, amidst growing frustration with the extant multilateral order. As Mr. Jaishankar has rightly highlighted in his remarks at the UN, at a challenging time for the world order, New Delhi continues to affirm its commitment to "diplomacy and the need for international cooperation".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Struggle in Keonjhar

The hopelessness and deprivation writ large in the photograph of the tribal tiny tots of Keonjhar in Odisha proves the point 'he who has health has hope, and he who has hope has everything' (Page 1, September 25). Without addressing key health-care indices, there is no merit in tom-tomming about opening AIIMS institutions in urban centres.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

Final game

The debate about Roger Federer being the greatest of all-time will keep simmering for some time ('Sport' page, September 25). There is no doubt that he is *numero uno* when it comes to aesthetics and finesse but Rafael Nadal has won more Grand Slams and Novak Djokovic will probably go on to beat Nadal's record when he calls time on his career. Numbers may not be everything in sport but we are indeed lucky to have witnessed the rivalry between these three musketeers.

Dr. Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

The picture of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal sitting next to each other sobbing, is one of sports most poignant and enduring images. Federer's sheer aesthetics redefined the men's game of tennis, and those beautiful memories will endure.

N.J. Ravi Chander,
Bengaluru

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.

India Inc. needs a neurodiverse workplace

Yeshasvini Ramaswamy

is CEO, Great Place to Work

In the last few years, words such as "inclusion" and "diversity" have assumed importance in the vocabulary of most organisations. A 2019 McKinsey study revealed that companies with gender diversity were 25% more likely to have above-average profitability while those with ethnic diversity out-rival their competitors by 36%. Another report titled 'India's Best Workplaces in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion 2021' states that diverse teams perform better, boost leadership integrity, heighten trust in the organisation's management and multiply revenue growth. It is no wonder then that organisations are building a more inclusive workforce by hiring employees from different ethnic groups, across gender and social backgrounds. Yet, lacking in this exercise is the absence of workers suffering from neurodiversity.

What is neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity in the workplace refers to including people with neurodivergent conditions such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorders, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and Asperger's Syndrome. Harvard Health Publishing defines neurodiversity as a notion that every person interacts and experiences their surroundings differently; there is no right way of thinking, learning, or/and behaving. These differences should not be construed as defects or disorders.

It is, therefore, unjust that even with all the necessary skill sets and degrees, these persons are denied a job because they may react to situations differently from non-neurodiverse persons. While part of the problem could be lack of awareness about neurodivergent conditions, it is time organisations created a more accommodating environment.

According to a recent report, nearly 2 million people in India suffer from this neurological and developmental disorder and are therefore identified as autistic. Another study by Deloitte estimates that nearly 20% of the world is neurodiverse. In the U.S., it is estimated that 85% of people on the autism spectrum are unemployed compared with 4.2% of the overall population. Hence, there is an urgency to create a work environment that welcomes neurodiverse individuals.

More efficient and creative

Organisations embracing neurodiversity enjoy a competitive edge in several areas such as efficiency, creativity, and culture. A study by JPMorgan Chase shows that professionals in its 'Autism at Work' initiative made fewer errors and were 90% to 140% more productive than neurotypical employees. Moreover, studies have shown that teams with both neurodivergent and neurotypical members are far more efficient than teams that comprise neurotypical employees alone. Neurodivergent individuals possess excellent attention to detail and an uncanny ability to focus on complex and repetitive tasks over a more extended period than their neurotypical peers. A study by the University of Montreal found that in a test involving completing a visual pattern, people on the autism spectrum could finish their task 40% faster than those who were not on the spectrum.

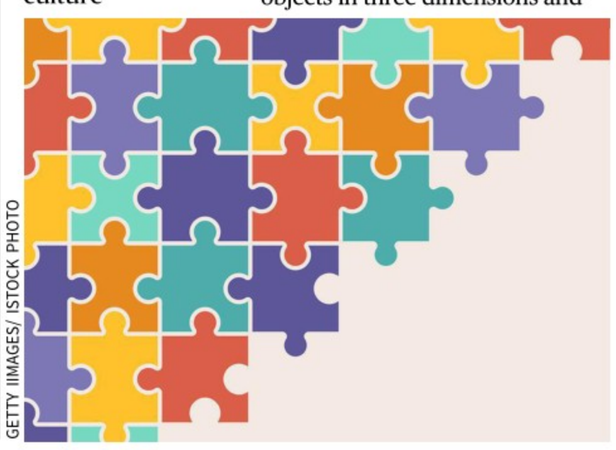
Additionally, people with dyslexia have more robust spatial reasoning – they can think about objects in three dimensions and analyse such objects even with limited information. They have problem-solving capabilities which allow them to see multiple solutions to a problem. They are often out-of-the-box thinkers with average or above-average intelligence.

Companies such as Deloitte, Microsoft, SAP, JPMorgan Chase, and E&Y have introduced neurodiversity hiring programmes. Indian-origin companies Hatti Kaapi and Lemon Tree Hotels have also included a neurodiverse workforce. Human resources and leadership teams must work together to ensure that the workplace is cooperative towards neurodiverse individuals. The process of building an inclusive culture includes customising interviews, ensuring day-to-day assistance for these specially abled individuals, and providing proper infrastructure so that they can perform at their optimal levels. Thus, organisations must not only remove barriers that obstruct the progress of such individuals but also create conducive conditions for them to achieve their true potential.

Mentorship programmes can benefit some, while others might require professional training on shared social and communication skills. Many employees with neurodiversity may find the hustle and bustle of a traditional office disturbing. Therefore, neurodivergent friendly offices catering to the employees' diverse sensory responses can help ensure that these employees are comfortable in office spaces.

However, creating the right environment is an ever-evolving exercise that requires openness and a will to change on the employer's part. This flexibility can result in exceptional benefits with minimal or no additional costs. To ensure higher profitability and be respected as a responsible employer globally, companies need to widen their definition of inclusivity by providing higher participation of a neurodiverse workforce.

Organisations embracing neurodiversity enjoy a competitive edge in areas such as efficiency, creativity, and culture



GETTY IIMAGES/ ISTOCK PHOTO

Maharashtra's loss is Gujarat's gain

The loss of the Vedanta-Foxconn project has caused an uproar in Maharashtra

STATE OF PLAY

Abhinay Deshpande
deshpande.abhinay@thehindu.co.in

A political row has spiralled in Maharashtra with mining conglomerate Vedanta and Taiwan-based electronics giant Foxconn choosing Gujarat over Talegaon to set up their multi-billion dollar semiconductor manufacturing unit. This project aims to make India self-reliant in electronics.

Blame game

The Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government and the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction of the Shiv Sena are blaming each other for the loss of the project, which was estimated to bring about 1,00,000 direct and indirect job opportunities to the State. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government has also hurt Marathi pride as Vedanta had nearly finalised Maharashtra as the site for the project.

The claims and counter-claims could hamper the fortunes of the ruling dispensation in the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections, while the $20 billion (₹1.54 lakh crore) project will be a boon to Gujarat, which is scheduled to go to the polls in December.

Leaders of the Shinde faction and the BJP hold the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) dispensation responsible for the loss, claiming that it sat on the project offer for seven months. They said that the Shinde-run government approved incentives worth ₹38,831 crore in July. Mr. Shinde accused the MVA government of not cooperating with the companies. "We came to power only one and a half

months ago. Such projects don't slip out of hand in one or two months. We held meetings with the companies as soon as we came to power," he said. Soon after Vedanta and Foxconn signed an MoU with the Gujarat government, Mr. Shinde said he spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi who assured him that the State will get a "similar project or even a better one". Mr. Shinde wrote a letter to Vedanta inviting the company to sign an MoU on July 29 to set up its plant at Talegaon near Pune, officials claimed.

Deputy Chief Minister Fadnavis sought to portray the issue as "healthy competition". Stating that "Gujarat is no Pakistan, and it is our brother," Mr. Fadnavis said Maharashtra fell behind Gujarat in attracting foreign investment during the MVA's tenure, but will be ahead of everyone in the next two years. He advised the Opposition to focus on becoming "competent and efficient" and not "negative and desperate."

The Opposition accused the BJP of lying, and slammed the government for losing out on the mega project. It alleged that the government came under pressure from Mr. Modi, whose home turf is Gujarat. "Soon after the project moved to Gujarat, the Centre started giving huge incentives, which clearly means the move was already planned. Now, stop criticising us. Let's come together and bring back the project," Mr. Thackeray said. The president of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, Nana Patole, called Mr. Shinde a "dummy" Chief Minister and claims that the State was being run by Mr. Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The BJP's strategy?

What is interesting is that Gujarat was not even in the competition as it doesn't have the required infrastructure. Besides Maharashtra, three other States – Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka – were competing for the project. These States have an abundance of IT resources and had offered financial and non-financial subsidies on capital expenditure, apart from cheap electricity. This is why officials are wondering why the company decided to set up the mega project in Gujarat instead.

When Vedanta held discussions with Mr. Shinde and Mr. Fadnavis and "almost finalised" the deal, the Maharashtra government was confident about the project. It offered a lucrative 30% capital subsidy for setting up the plant in the Talegaon industrial area, waiver on stamp duty, a power tariff subsidy, and help to set up a 750 MW captive solar power generation unit.

Vedanta and Foxconn are yet to finalise the location for the plant in Gujarat. This might take at least two weeks as they are evaluating various sites based on technical aspects, connectivity and commercial viability. The shift to Gujarat is being seen as an attempt by the BJP to buttress its poll prospects in Gujarat. There has been a trend of projects being delayed or transferred from Maharashtra to other States. Could it be that the BJP's strategy is to rotate projects with massive investments from one State to another to suit its electoral advantage?

Mid-day meal-related food poisoning cases at six-year peak

CAG audits blame poor infrastructure, insufficient inspections, irregular licensing and limited reporting

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Rebecca Rose Varghese

With most students back in school after pandemic restrictions were eased, cases of food poisoning due to the consumption of mid-day meals have resurfaced. In the last 90 days, close to 120 students suffered from food poisoning across schools in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

In 2022, 979 victims of food poisoning were reported in schools across India, the highest in the last six years. The number declined during the pandemic years as schools were closed. Chart 1 shows the number of food poisoning cases due to the consumption of mid-day meals at schools between 2009 and 2022 (till September 14).

In the last 13 years, data suggest that at least 9,646 such cases of food poisoning were reported. This figure is a conservative estimate based on data from the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme and news reports. Close to 12% of such victims became ill after consuming mid-day meals in which lizards, rats, snakes and cockroaches were found. Chart 2 shows the number of such victims between 2009 and 2022. Most such cases were recorded in Karnataka (1,524), Odisha (1,327), Telangana (1,092), Bihar (950) and Andhra Pradesh (794). Map 3 shows the State-wise split.

In 2016, 247 students fell ill after eating khichdi as their mid-day meal at a Zila Parishad school in a village in Palghar district, Maharashtra. Map 4 shows 232 such incidents of food poisoning due to consumption of mid-day meals in schools between 2009 and 2022.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has audited several States in the past decade and has cited many reasons that could lead to low standards of mid-day meal preparation such as poor infrastructure, insufficient inspections, irregular licensing, limited reporting and absence of feedback mechanisms.

In 2019, in Madhya Pradesh, the CAG found that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India did not notify doctors to report food poisoning cases. The Food Safety Commissioner did not have information relating to food poisoning cases that occurred during the 2014-19 period. The CAG found that one such missed instance involved 110 food poisoning cases that occurred in August 2014, in a school in Hoshangabad district. As data were not collected, action was not taken against Food Business Operators (FBOs) responsible for preparing the meal.

In 2015-16, in Madhya Pradesh, the CAG found that around 14,500 schools did not have a kitchen shed for preparing mid-day meals. In 2016, in Arunachal Pradesh, 40% of the schools did not have a shed. In Chhattisgarh, a CAG survey between FY11 and FY15 found that the mid-day meal was cooked in open areas in unhygienic conditions in 8,932 schools.

Food delivered from centralised kitchens to schools should have a minimum temperature of 65°C when it is served. In 2018, during a field visit of schools in Valsad district in Gujarat, the CAG observed that the food served by the NGOs was not hot and none of the schools the CAG had visited had the facility to check temperature. In five districts of the State, the CAG also found that there was over 80% shortfall in inspections of schools carried out by Deputy Collectors due to shortage of staff.

In 2014, in Jharkhand, the CAG found that a grievance redressal mechanism was absent in many schools and so, reports about children falling sick were not addressed and rectified.

In 2017, in Himachal Pradesh, the CAG found that license and registration certificates were given to 97% and 100% of FBOs, respectively, without inspecting their premises.

When food turns poison

The charts and maps show the number of people who suffered from food poisoning after consuming mid-day meals in schools across India in the 2009-2022 period. The data were collated from the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and news reports by Arun (tweets as @amasaesle). This is a conservative estimate as the IDSP reports information on outbreaks and not individual cases. Also, only English language news reports were considered

Chart 1 | The chart shows the number of cases of food poisoning due to the consumption of mid-day meals in schools between 2009 and 2022 (till September 14)

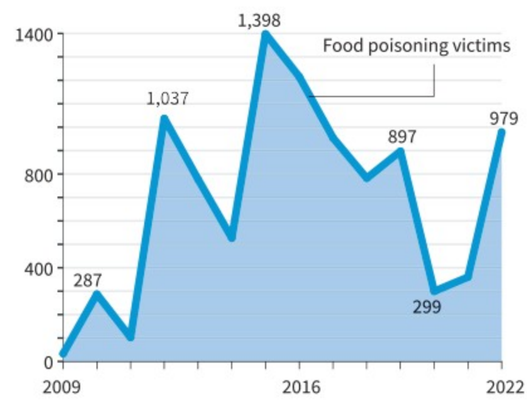
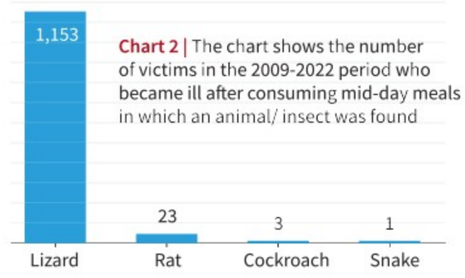
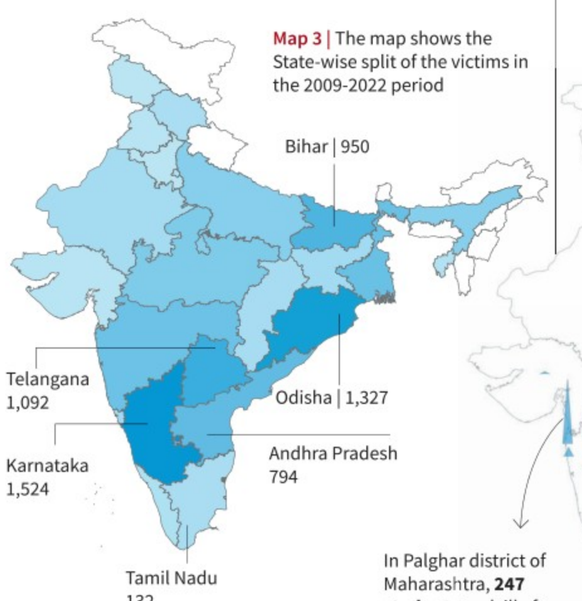


Chart 2 | The chart shows the number of victims in the 2009-2022 period who became ill after consuming mid-day meals in which an animal/ insect was found

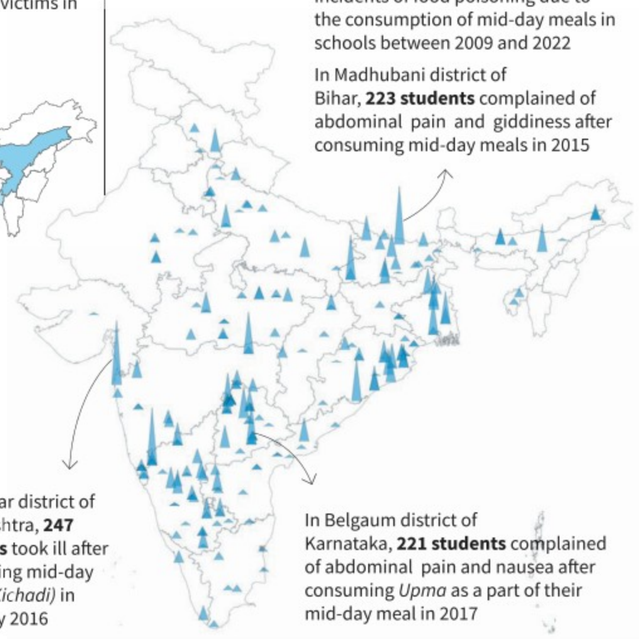


Map 3 | The map shows the State-wise split of the victims in the 2009-2022 period



Map 4 | The map shows the 232 incidents of food poisoning due to the consumption of mid-day meals in schools between 2009 and 2022

In Madhubani district of Bihar, **223 students** complained of abdominal pain and giddiness after consuming mid-day meals in 2015



In Palghar district of Maharashtra, **247 students** took ill after consuming mid-day meals (*Kichadi*) in February 2016

In Belgaum district of Karnataka, **221 students** complained of abdominal pain and nausea after consuming *Upma* as a part of their mid-day meal in 2017

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 26, 1972

Tanaka and Chou agree to normalise relations

Peking, Sept. 25: The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Kakuei Tanaka, and the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Chou En-lai, agreed in their first round of talks here to-day to normalise relations between Japan and China. Mr. Tanaka, flew into Peking to-day on a historic six-day visit aimed at formally ending a century of hostility between Japan and China. Clear autumn weather prevailed in the Chinese capital as the special aircraft carrying the Japanese Prime Minister touched down. Mr. Tanaka was accompanied by a 51-member delegation. Mr. Chou En-lai heading the reception group, shook hands and exchanged greetings with Mr. Tanaka, the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit Peking. Mr. Tanaka, was also greeted on arrival, among others, by the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Chi Peng-fei, Mr. Kuo Mo-jo, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Honorary President of the China-Japan Friendship Association and Mr. Liao Chen-chi, President of the Association. Mr. Tanaka reviewed a military guard of honour presented by a Chinese unit. From the airport, Mr. Tanaka and party were driven through the main thoroughfare in a procession of cars to the guest house in the western outskirts of Peking where they will be quartered during the visit. Less than an hour before Mr. Tanaka was due to arrive in Peking the Japanese flag was raised this morning in China for the first time since the end of World War II, 27 years ago. Mr. Tanaka became the first Japanese Prime Minister to set foot on the Chinese mainland since World War II.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 26, 1922

French Opinion

Constantinople, Sept. 25: Highest French authorities are convinced that the fire at Smyrna cannot be attributed to the Turks and it is declared that investigations show that there is no ground for the statements of refugees that Turks sprinkled streets and houses with petrol. On the contrary it is alleged that previous to the outbreak of fire, Armenians were seen to throw bombs out of houses and otherwise to act in a hostile manner and it was this, it was stated in French circles, which led to repressive measures of which Armenians were the principal victims.

From Page One

92 MLAs threaten to quit if Pilot is made CM

Mr. Dhariwal's name had been doing the rounds as Mr. Gehlot's successor along with that of Mr. Joshi.

The rebellion comes as a direct challenge to the Gandhi family at a time when its members have ruled themselves out of the race for Congress president. Congress president Sonia Gandhi, former president Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had given word to Mr. Pilot that he will be made Chief Minister when Mr. Gehlot moves out of the State.

The central leadership deputed Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge, in charge of the party in the State, to be present at the meeting as observers. The script started going awry sometime in the afternoon, when the legislators started queuing up at Mr. Dhariwal's residence, giving sound bites extolling Mr. Gehlot's credentials as Chief Minister. In contrast, the residence of Mr. Pilot wore a deserted look.

It was not clear till late evening how many MLAs were supporting Mr. Pilot. He, as of now, other than the Gandhi family's words, did not have anything else to fall back on. Mr. Pilot supporters, according to sources, had insisted that Mr. Gehlot resign from the Chief Minister's post, before he files his nomination. It was because of this insistence that the central leadership had scheduled the meeting of the Congress Legislature Party.

The slated meeting could not take place despite the fact that, just minutes before the scheduled meeting, Mr. Gehlot had told reporters that traditionally, whenever the Chief Minister is to be chosen at a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party, a one-line resolution is passed empowering the high command to take the final call.

He also underlined, that he had already conveyed to the central leadership on August 9, that the reins of Rajasthan should be handed over to anyone who can make the Congress victorious. These comments were aimed at distancing himself from the rebellion by the MLAs.

Nitish, Lalu try to find common ground

The rally organised by Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) patriarch O.P. Chautala at Fatehabad in Haryana was attended by several Opposition leaders, including RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Sukhbir Singh Badal. The AAP was also not invited owing to its "anti-Haryana stand on the Sutlej-Yamuna Link". The Telangana Rashtra Samithi and the Trinamool Congress, though invited, chose to stay away. National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Meghalaya Governor Satyapal Malik could not attend the event for different reasons, but sent messages remembering the contributions of Choudhary Devi Lal.

At the rally, Mr. Kumar ruled out a "third front" and called for a "main front" that provided space for the Congress too. Mr. Kumar's statement supporting the Congress assumes importance especially in view of the audience that included Mr. Chautala and Mr. Badal. Both the INLD and the SAD have remained antagonistic towards the Congress. Saying that he had no personal ambitions, Mr. Kumar said all Opposition parties must come together and not go "here and there". "If all non-BJP parties unite, then they can get rid of those who are working to destroy the country," he asserted, citing Bihar as example where seven parties came together to remove the BJP from power.

Congress at the helm

Later in the evening, emerging out of a meeting with Ms. Gandhi and Mr. Kumar, Mr. Prasad underlined the importance of the Congress, calling it the "largest Opposition party". The BJP needs to be removed to save the country, he added, quoting the Bihar example where every party came together to "bid farewell" to the BJP.

"We told Sonia *ji* that the Congress is the largest Opposition party and therefore they should call all other to hold a dialogue and to come together to bid farewell to the BJP," he said. Mr. Prasad also accused the BJP of doing nothing about the growing inflation and sharp rise in unemployment. Instead, he said, the BJP government is busy putting the Opposition leaders behind bars.

Two militants killed in encounter near LoC in J&K's Kupwara: police

Two AK-47 rifles, two pistols and four hand grenades recovered; house attached in Bandipora in north Kashmir for allegedly sheltering terrorists who were neutralised in an operation last year

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Two unidentified militants were killed in an encounter near the Line of Control in Kupwara district of north Kashmir on Sunday.

"Army and Kupwara police neutralised two terrorists near the LoC at Tekri Nar in the Machil area of Kupwara. Identification of the killed terrorists being ascertained," a Jammu and Kashmir Police spokesperson said. Two AK-47 rifles, two pistols and four hand grenades were recovered from the slain militants, the police said.

Meanwhile, the police attached a house at Bandipora in north Kashmir "for wilfully sheltering and harbouring militants". The house, belonging to Bashir Ahmad Mir of Wanpora Gurez, at present living in Watrina, was attached after obtaining legal sanction from the competent authorities, the police said in a statement.

Against terrorism: The police requested residents not to harbour militants, failing which they will be liable for action. NISSAR AHMAD

The house was linked to a case in which two hardcore militants were neutralised in 2021. "The investigation proved beyond doubt that the house was used for the purpose of militancy, sheltering, harbouring militants and such act was voluntarily and knowingly given by the member of the family. Many attacks on civilians and protected persons were carried, conspired and planned by militants while using this house as a hideout," it read. The Bandipora police requested locals "not to harbour or give shelter to militants, failing which they will be liable to action under law, including property attachment of movable or immovable proceedings".

"In case of any forced and coercive entry by militants into any house or vehicle, the matter should be brought to the notice of police immediately, otherwise proceedings under law will follow against such houses or other properties," the police warned.

'Non-oil exports to UAE up 14% after trade deal; surge 3% globally'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Import increase in oil products is largely on account of the rise in global prices and increase in volumes
>
> **MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

India's non-oil exports to the UAE have grown 14% between June and August, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Sunday, attributing the uptick to the bilateral deal between the two nations that came into effect this May.

India's global non-petroleum exports during the same period grew by just 3% on a year-on-year basis, the Ministry said, seeking to emphasise the much higher growth in such exports to the UAE which were at $5.92 billion compared to $5.17 billion a year ago. "Excluding petroleum-related imports, the imports from the UAE in the three months grew by 1% to $5.61 billion," the Ministry noted.

"...Import increase in oil/petroleum products is largely on account of the rise in global prices and to a certain extent on an increase offtake in volumes. Further, it is pertinent to mention that bulk of the oil imports from the UAE are of Crude Petroleum, the demand for which is inelastic and the customs duty for which is very low," it explained. The sharpest jump in Indian exports to UAE was seen in sugar (up 237%), cereals (161%), vegetables (82%), inorganic chemicals (74%) and electrical machinery and equipment (67%).

The Ministry said it expects Indian exports to increase further in the coming months with increasing use of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by exporters and a series of trade promotion events planned in the UAE.

Rohatgi declines Centre's offer to be Attorney-General

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mr. Rohtagi resigned in 2017 after serving for three years. After that Mr. Venugopal was appointed

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi on Sunday confirmed to *The Hindu* that he had declined the offer from the Union government to be the next Attorney-General (A-G) of India.

The development comes as a setback for the Narendra Modi government as the incumbent, K.K. Venugopal, is set to retire on September 30.

Last week, there were reports that Mr. Rohatgi would take over as the government's top law officer from October 1. However, Mr. Rohatgi said he had declined the offer but cited no reasons. Mr. Rohtagi had resigned in June 2017 after serving for three years. After that Mr. Venugopal was appointed A-G for a term of three years. He was given one-year extensions in 2020 and 2021 at his requests.

A ride on Dal lake

Kashmir calling: Tourists enjoying shikara ride on the Dal lake in Srinagar on Sunday. The lake is a prominent tourist spot in the Kashmir Valley. NISSAR AHMAD

Fighter jet strength depleting, IAF expedites Su-30 fleet modernisation

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Having taken delivery of all Su-30MKI fighter aircraft and the deal for contracting 12 more Su-30s meant to replace those lost over the years deferred against the backdrop of the Ukraine war, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is working to speed up the long-delayed upgrade of these frontline fighters. "The Air Service Quality Requirements for the first upgrade are being finalised," a defence official said. "We are trying to do as much of the upgrade as possible within the country," the official stated.

Mid-air fueling of an Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.

The upgrade process is as much as procuring an aircraft, the official said while explaining that the upgrade is a complex exercise and is being planned in phases. During the early stage of the deliberations, which have been going on for several years now, the Russian side had pitched for the entire upgrade to be done in Russia, but given the long timelines, India was inclined to do it in phases with a major part of it in the country. The Make in India effort and the war in Ukraine have accelerated that effort.

Effort is on to do basic mission capabilities, fly by wire and flight controls within the country, the official stated. The IAF is looking to add new weapons, avionics and sensors and engines on the Su-30MKIs to keep them contemporary for the next few decades. India had procured 272 Su-30s from Russia, a majority of which were assembled by HAL and around 11 jets were lost. The IAF has 12 Su-30 squadrons in service, and 40-50 aircraft are at HAL for overhaul repairs, officials said.

Read our explainer
The dwindling fighter strength of the IAF
bit.ly/3LG9ugc

Labour cost edge may dissipate due to tech shifts: NITI adviser

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The advent of technologies such as 3D printing and robotics could significantly alter countries' competitive advantages in global trade flows, and spell the end of factors like cheaper labour costs that usually benefit several developing countries, a top policymaker said on Sunday.

"With a technology like 3D printing, you can design in one country and print in another and the trade transaction can happen digitally," said Badri Narayan Gopalakrishnan, NITI Aayog lead adviser and head of trade and commerce.

While technologies like AI, robotics and blockchain are leading to a significant realignment in production processes and consumption patterns, he said their adoption will also lead to changes in comparative advantages.

"We may have different countries that will be leading for different products, commodities, and comparative advantages may change. For example, developing countries that traditionally have a labour cost advantage... if the production processes change and you can do things without using labour with automation and technologies," he said.

He spoke on the impact of 'Digitisation on Foreign Trade' hosted by NITI Aayog and Trade Promotion Council of India.

Govt. lacks clear stand on curative plea in Bhopal aid case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The fate of the Bhopal gas tragedy case is perched precariously on the edge of a precipice in the Supreme Court. On September 20, the government's law officers sounded unsure if the Centre would want to pursue a curative plea to enhance the compensation awarded to victims. They sought time till October 11 to get "instructions". The lack of a clear stand by the Union before a Bench led by Justice S.K. Kaul conveys a sea change in the attitude of the government.

When the Union government filed the curative petition in November 2010, it had clearly declared itself as "the *parens patriae* (protector) of the victims of the world's largest industrial disaster – the Bhopal gas tragedy". The curative plea sought additional funds of over ₹7,400 crore over and above the $470 million already paid by Union Carbide.

The tragedy in 1984 had resulted in the loss of 5,295 lives and injured over five lakh people. The Centre had argued that the compensation fixed by the court in orders passed between February 1989 and October 1991 was based on certain "assumptions of truth". These assumptions were "unrelated to realities".

Further, Parliament had cast the government in the role of the protector of the victims by enacting the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985. The government's acceptance of this role was evident in its curative petition which said that the "Government of India, as *parens patriae*, exclusively represent the victims so that the interest of the victims of the disaster are fully protected and that the claims for compensation are pursued separately, effectively and equitably".

Despite all this, the law officers said the case had come up for hearing all of a sudden on September 20 and they wanted time to hear from the government.

On September 20, the court said that though the incident was "unfortunate", there could not be "perpetual uncertainty". It even wondered whether the compensation could be changed time and again. It was responding to a submission by senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, appearing for the Bhopal Gas Peedith Mahila Udyog Sangathan and Bhopal Gas Peedith Sahayog Samiti, that the intensity of the tragedy had increased "fivefold" in the number of injuries and deaths over the years.

The court's observations do not gel with those earlier made in its orders in the Bhopal case. One order cautioned the court and the parties to "not shut out any important material which would affect the justness of the settlement". The court in those orders had acknowledged that "like all other human institutions, this court is human and fallible".

The Supreme Court and the government had agreed that the Bhopal gas tragedy was "unparalleled in human history" and the relief and rehabilitation may have to undergo constant review and change.

APPEAL

Baby Raavanan is 1 1/2 years old boy suffering from Acute Myeloid Leukemia. His family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of **Rs.8,00,000/-** to undergo Chemotherapy for 1 year at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. He needs your blessings and support. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

'Left parties failed to adapt to cultural needs'

INTERVIEW

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

The ending of the novel *Yesuvin Tholargal* (Comrades of Jesus) by noted Tamil writer Indira Parthasarathy would have been heartening to comrades of the time – "We are all waiting for the arrival of Jesus. But instead of a cross, he will hold a hammer and sickle," says Asha, a character in the novel set in Poland.

Asked why the euphoria of the first half of the previous century ended in despondency, Mr. Parthasarathy sought to justify his red-tinted glasses, saying Poland, steeped in a happy blend of Christianity and Marxism, could have ushered in a new era.

"You must keep in mind that the Communist Party there not only built offices for itself but also constructed the famous St. Paul Cathedral. Still, the system failed because of excessive police control and the failure of the Communist parties to adapt Marxism to the cultural needs of the varied countries where they had come to power," said Mr. Parthasarathy, who had served as Professor of Tamil at the University of Warsaw for five years.

Not to forget he had been a member of the Communist Party of India (CPI) during his student days in Kumbakonam and later in Annamalai University in Chidambaram.

He said that even Karl Marx's calendar for revolution failed. "He visualised it to happen in England, the most advanced industrialist country since he was sitting and reading in the British Library. It took place in an agrarian society in Russia," said 92-year-old Parthasarathy, a writer who closely follow the political developments in the country.

"Unless the Opposition parties in India sink their ego and come together with the single agenda of taking on the BJP, the party will come to power once again in 2024. The Congress has become a laughing stock. If the BJP is re-elected with as much majority as it has now, the party will make India a Hindu *rashtra* and will make amendments to the Constitution to fulfil its agenda," warned Professor Parthasarathy, who had worked in Delhi University before his tenure in Warsaw. Later, he joined the Department of Drama in Pondicherry University.

Indira Parthasarathy says if the BJP is re-elected with as much majority as it has now, it will make India a Hindu nation. R. RAGU

Indira is the name of his wife, who encouraged him to send his story *Manitha Enthiram* (Human Machine) to the Tamil magazine *Ananda Vikatan*, which was published as a star story in 1962. His short stories have been published in two volumes. His play *Ramanujar* won the Saraswathi Samman award.

Fertile ground

Born in Chennai and brought up in Kumbakonam, Mr. Parthasarathy had the advantage of living, observing and participating in an environment of intense political and literary activities. Kumbakonam was the birthplace of some of the finest writers including Ku.Pa. Rajagopalan, Na. Pitchamurthy, Karichankunju and M.V. Venkatram. Another writer T. Janakirman lived there and taught Mr. Parthasarathy at school. Mr. Parthasarathy lived in Saranagapani Sannidhi Street where mathematical genius Ramanujan also lived.

The composite Thanjavur, in which Kumbakonam was a part, was a nerve centre of the Communist and Dravidian Movement, and Mr. Parthasarathy, known as 'Epaa' in the literary circle, was inevitably drawn by the political and literary currents of his time.

He shocked his father, who was dreaming of Mr. Parthasarathy becoming an IAS officer, by joining for a Master's in Tamil in Annamalai University.

"It was an aspiration of every Brahmin father then. He thought I was studying English literature. But it was my desire to study *Tholkappiyam* with commentaries by Senavarayar. I have no regrets," laughed Mr. Parthasarathy, who later wrote *Kuruthipunal*, a novel based on the massacre at Keezhvenmani, in the then composite Thanjavur district, where 44 Dalits were burnt alive in 1968. It won him the Sahitya Akademi award in 1977 and was also made into a film.

A massacre retold

"When the novel was published, the CPI(M) took objection saying that I have diverted the issue by portraying the landlord as impotent. I looked at the Keezhvenmani massacre from the Freudian angle because among those who were killed were 26 women and 12 children. Why women and children," he asked.

The title *Kuruthipunal*, he explained, was from a poem in *Kambaramayanam* in praise of Parasurama.

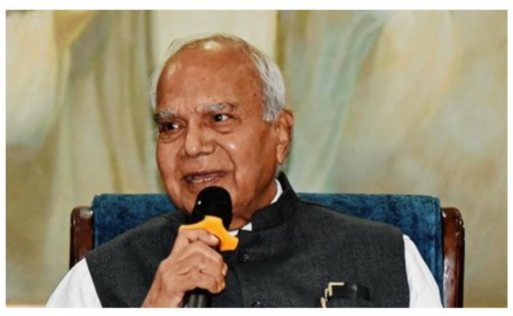
He also explained that he had suggested the title 'Poisoned Root' for the English translation of his novel *Ver Patru*, though it is slightly inaccurate and could even convey a negative meaning. "I got the idea from Eedu, the commentaries on Vaishnavite literature. If the root is poisoned, it will poison the tree. The root in my novel is the caste system, which is poisonous," said Mr. Parthasarathy, who has an in-depth knowledge of classical Tamil literature and on his table, nestling among *Tirukkural* and *Kamba Ramayanam*, is the novel of Portuguese Nobel laureate Jose Saramago.

But his literary works do not show off his scholarship. "Scholarship should be integrated with storytelling and should not prove difficult for the reader," he said.

He also does not agree with the claim of some writers that they write primarily for themselves.

"A kite would emerge in the sky only when there is wind to sustain it. When an incident affects me, I react by writing. The plot develops when two characters start the conversation. I do not know how my story ends," he said.

INBRIEF



Punjab Governor agrees to Assembly Session tomorrow

The face-off between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has ended with the Governor agreeing to the government's proposal to summon the Assembly session on Tuesday. Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan on Sunday said that the Governor has acceded to the government's request for holding the session. "The Hon. Governor, Punjab, has very kindly acceded to our request and summoned the Punjab Vidhan Sabha to meet for it's third session on 27.9.2022 at 11.00 AM at Chandigarh," he said in a tweet.

U.P. govt. prepares SOP for cremation of crime victims

The Uttar Pradesh government has prepared a standard operating procedures (SOPs) for dignified cremation of bodies of those killed in criminal incidents or accidents. It has said that anyone who places a body in a public place or road will face action since this amounts to disrespect of the deceased. The new SOPs will be notified soon. They has been prepared on the orders of the Allahabad High Court which has asked the State government to formulate them after the outrage that followed the cremation of the Hathras rape victim in the middle of the night in September 2020. The High Court has also directed the government to sensitise officials to follow the due process. According to the draft, after the families of the deceased are given the body, they need to give in writing that they will take the body straight to their house and thereafter for last rites and burial. The draft strictly prohibits placing of bodies on roads and blocking traffic in protest. If the family of the deceased refuses to accept the body, then the district magistrate will take a call about cremation in consultation with the local people.

Very premature to comment on India getting UN Security Council veto, says Jaishankar

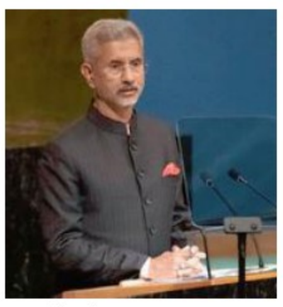
At this stage, the emphasis is on ensuring that there was some tangible basis to the negotiations, says the External Affairs Minister at the conclusion of his week-long visit to the UN

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who concluded a week-long visit to the United Nations, said it would be premature to comment on the positions countries, including India, are taking on the issue of whether any permanent membership for India to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) came with veto power. The Minister was speaking to the Indian press at a briefing on Saturday afternoon.

"So I think it'd be very premature to comment either on our own positions or other people's positions at this stage," the Minister said, adding that at this stage, the emphasis was on ensuring that there was some tangible basis to the negotiations.

India has been campaigning hard, including this past week, for a permanent seat on the Council and currently all five permanent members (the P-5) of the world's top security body have veto rights. While a number of countries have shown support for India's membership, including the U.S. and Russia, the question remains open, if this comes with veto rights.


S. Jaishankar

"...The starting point is the need to accept that there should be reform and then the need to develop some kind of practical path towards it," Dr. Jaishankar said in response to questions from *The Hindu* on the linkages between permanent membership and the veto. At this stage the positions were not fixed and countries' ideas would go into a "melting pot" before something emerges, the Minister said.

"It's incredible that after so many years, there's actually no text. So how does the negotiation advance if there is no text and no progress and no stock-taking?" he said, adding that India was advocating for text-based negotiations right now, to ensure that the intergovernmental negotiations (IGN) process – the principal framework via which UNSC reform is deliberated – was "serious".

"I think there's a growing appreciation of the need for that," Dr. Jaishankar said. He alluded to references others had made on Security Council reform in their public remarks during the week, saying he sensed a shift in the mood on the long-standing issue that is raised every year and that others had told him they had sensed a shift too. The American and Russian UNGA addresses contained explicit references to the issue. President of the U.N. General Assembly Csaba Kőrösi in his UNGA address last week, advocated for Security Council reform, saying it ought to reflect "21st century realities" and "more equally" represent the world's population.

The U.S. State Department's spokesperson, Ned Price, however, had said last year that the U.S. was in favour of increasing the permanent and non-permanent seats on the 15-member body, but was not in favour of expanding or altering the veto. This, however, was before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. Since then the veto right has been the subject of more intense scrutiny with Russia vetoing, multiple Security Council resolutions calling for an end to the invasion. India had cast an abstention vote in these cases. New Delhi has also found itself at the raw end of the veto, with China delaying the sanctioning of terrorists by the UNSC 1267 sanctions committee, including earlier this month, when it placed a hold on the proposal to add Lashkar-e-Taiba 'commander' Sajid Mir, wanted for the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, to the sanctions list.

Watch our video
Is UNSC seat a possibility or a pipe dream for India?
bit.ly/unscseat

Mamata flays Opposition

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said she does not believe in politics of revenge; otherwise she had enough grounds to send some of the CPI(M) leaders to jail.

"We are not vindictive enough to send some of our predecessors to jail... Still, if they believe in speaking ill against us, all I can say is please carry on. We don't care, we can only feel hurt," she said.

Election Commission to push for internal democracy in parties

Damini Nath
NEW DELHI

After taking action against registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) for failing to comply with norms, the Election Commission is likely to take up the issue of internal democracy within parties next, according to EC sources.

Though the Representation of the People Act does not mandate internal elections, the EC's guidelines for parties applying for registration under the Act state that the applicant should submit a copy of the party constitution.

"There should be a specific provision in the Constitution/rules and regulations/memorandum of the party regarding organisational elections at different levels and the periodicity of such elections and terms of office of the office-bearers of the party (sic)," the EC guidelines say.

A top official said the EC would nudge parties to follow the internal democracy commitments. However, the Commission does not have the power to deregister parties that fail to comply with the rules. Though it has asked the Law Ministry for the power to deregister political parties in the past, the proposal has not been implemented so far.

Recently, the Election Commission had come out against reports that the YSR Congress Party had in July elected party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to the post for life.

In an order on September 21, it said that it rejected any attempt to mark a party post as permanent since it was "inherently anti-democracy".

Listen to our analysis
Should the EC insist on inner-party elections?
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INBRIEF

Chandigarh airport to be named after Bhagat Singh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced that the Chandigarh airport will be renamed after Bhagat Singh as a tribute to the freedom fighter. In his *Mann Ki Baat* radio broadcast, where he referred to diverse issues, Mr. Modi spoke of climate change which he said is a major threat to marine ecosystems and expressed concern about the "disturbing" menace of litter on beaches. "It becomes our responsibility to make continuous efforts to tackle these challenges," he said. In the broadcast, Mr. Modi paid tributes to BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya, saying he was a profound thinker and a great son of the country.

Mobile fuel dispensers gain popularity in Northeast India

Northeast India has more diesel-vending 'mobile bowsers' than most parts of the country, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) officials said. The nation's largest fuel retailer had, in March 2018, launched the door-to-door diesel delivery service in Pune. The diesel-dispensing trucks are approved by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation. "These diesel outlets on wheels, which we call mobile bowsers, are gaining popularity across the country but not at the rate seen in the northeast," G. Ramesh, Executive Director and IOC's Assam head, said. Northeast India currently has 43 mobile bowsers serving remote areas, and mobile towers in far-flung areas.

'Deendayal Upadhyaya's ideas are central to BJP's ideology'

Describing BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya as the proponent of "integral humanism" ideology, who inspired the country towards '*Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*', Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday that after independence, it was Upadhyaya who drew the attention of the government towards realities of life ensuring uplift of the poor and downtrodden. Mr. Adityanath said, "Today, the entire country is remembering Pt Deendayal *ji*. His ideas of 'integral humanism' have been at the centre of the BJP's ideology and the driving force behind party's good governance."

Azad reaches Jammu; likely to launch his party this week

Veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who ended his more than five-decade-long association with the Congress last month, is likely to launch his party in the next couple of days. "I am inviting the media tomorrow (Monday) before the launch of the party. I am here to meet workers and leaders," Mr. Azad told presspersons in ani nteraction at his residence here upon his arrival. "He is having two back-to-back separate meetings with senior and second rung leaders later today," a close aide of Mr. Azad said. Mr. Azad, 73, quit the Congress on August 26, terming the party "comprehensively destroyed". He lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for "demolishing" the party's consultative mechanism.

An inventory of Armenian properties in City of Joy

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

When Kolkata was coming up in the 1690s, the Armenians arrived in the city. The community, whose strength in the City of Joy has dropped to 150 individuals at present, had once flourished in business and built several key properties. In the 330 years since the first Armenians set foot there, they had given several properties in the heart of the city to rent or lease for a nominal amount.

Earlier this month, the Office of the Administrator General and Official Trustee of West Bengal received a letter from Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. The letter was to express appreciation to Biplab Roy, judge who heads the office of the Official Trustee for better financial management of Armenian properties in the city.

"We are pleased to learn from Very Rev. Fr. Dajad Tsaturyan, Pastor of the Armenians in India and manager of Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy, about your devoted hard work in preserving the rich legacy and heritage of the Armenians in Kolkata," said the letter dated September 5 and signed by Karekin II.

Mr. Roy said the annual income from 40 properties belonging to the Armenian institutions have increased from ₹36.55 lakh to over ₹2 crore after the lease agreements were changed.

"For instance, a property on 44 Chowringhee Road spread over 60 cottahs [one cottah is equal to 720 sq.ft] of land was leased for 99 years where the yearly rent was about ₹1 lakh. Those occupying the property on lease were violating some terms and then after discussion, the new rent was decided as ₹60 lakh a year. Also, the company agreed to ₹3.6 crore as security deposit," Mr. Roy explained. The Office of the Administrator General also took possession of four cottahs of land of the Armenian Church at Barabazar valued at ₹10 core located on 1 Synagogue Street, Kolkata which was illegally handed over to some people. Mr. Roy also added that his office was taking steps to recover many prime properties of the Church in Kolkata, Hooghly and Asansol.

Past connection: The Armenian Church is among the iconic properties in Kolkata. DEBASISH BHADURI

In his letter, Karekin II says, "Please accept our words of appreciation for the unwavering support shown for the benefit of Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy and the Armenian Churches in West Bengal. It is also greatly pleasing to know that with your kind cooperation the Armenian College is operating successfully, providing excellent education to our Armenian children."

The Religious Head of Armenia in the communication wished that Mr. Roy continued in his official position for the benefit and safeguard of various trusts of Armenians in Kolkata.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Roy who is a judicial officer of the rank of District Judge, said, "The appreciation from Armenia is not only an honour to the Office of Administrator General and Official Trustee of Kolkata but also to the very city of Kolkata which has tried to restore the legacy of all the communities that have contributed to its composition nature. We are trying to restore and ensure that the properties belonging to the Armenians, Jews and even Anglo-Indians are properly maintained and they generate resources that can contribute to the well-being of the community". The State government also draws a commission from the money generated by these properties.

Sunil Sobti, warden of Armenian Church of Kolkata, said that what Mr. Roy and his office have done was remarkable and something nobody had done in the past several years.

Mr. Sobti added many iconic buildings including the 300-year-old Armenian Holy Church of Nazareth and the Kolkata's Grand Hotel were built by the members of the community. There is an Armenian Street, and the Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy was formally set up in 1821 at 358 Old China Bazar Street.

The first Act relating to the Administrator General of Bengal was passed in 1874, which was then amended in 1913. There was also an Official Trustee Act, which was in effect from the 1870s and in 1916, the office of the Administrator General and Official Trustee were merged and the office of the Administrator General and Official Trustee came into being and has continued to function since then. Recently a treasure trove of artefacts about Kolkata's colonial past were discovered from an old warehouse of the Office of Administrator General.

Amid protests by thousands across Uttarakhand, family cremates murder victim

Victim's father had earlier refused to perform the last rites as he alleged that the resort of the accused was demolished only to destroy evidence; Congress demands justice for the family

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Ankita Bhandari, who was murdered by a BJP leader's son in Uttarakhand, was cremated on Sunday evening, in a day of protests across the State. The father of the deceased woman questioned the government's decision to demolish the resort of the accused, and termed it "destruction of evidence".

The police said no stone had been left unturned to get the accused the "harshest punishment".

"The police's bulldozer action has tampered with the evidence. Also, we are not satisfied with the post-mortem report of our daughter. I also demand the fast-track trial of the accused. Only after all this, we will cremate our daughter," Virendra Bhandari, father of the victim, had earlier told presspersons.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi took to Twitter, and said that the girl's kin were asking why "evidence is being destroyed".

"A heart-wrenching incident happened with Ankita of Uttarakhand. But even after such a big incident, the administration is restricting itself to action just for show. Just imagine what Ankita's parents might be going through," Ms. Vadra tweeted.

Call for justice: People blocking the Rishikesh-Badrinath highway in protest against the killing of Ankita Bhandari in Uttarakhand. PTI

Additional Superintendent of Police Kotdwar Shekhar Suyal denied claims that any evidence had been destroyed. "No evidence has been destroyed. Our team has done videography of all rooms. We have collected forensic and scientific evidence. We have enough evidence to prove that the accused are guilty," Mr. Suyal said.

Uttarakhand Director-General of Police Ashok Kumar called the family and assured it justice after a video of the girl's father refusing to cremate her went viral.

The protests have kept the police on their toes. The Rishikesh-Badrinath national highway was blocked by protesters for several hours.

Chandigarh plans to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

New policy envisages that EVs will contribute 70% of vehicle registrations by the end of 2027

Chandigarh's Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2022 seeks to reduce the use of fossil fuels, which contribute substantially to the rising particulate air pollution in the Union Territory.

As a "model EV city", Chandigarh aims to have one of the highest penetrations of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) among all Indian cities by the end of the policy period of five years.

Approved by Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit, the policy, which came into effect earlier this week, addresses the slow uptake of EVs and the changing policy, technology, and market landscapes of the sector.

The policy prioritises public and shared transport, goods carriers, and two-wheelers to accelerate the adoption of EVs.

Dharam Pal, adviser to the administrator, said the policy incentivises the adoption of vehicle categories such as e-bicycles, e-2 wheelers, and personal and commercial e-four wheelers, over and above FAME-II policy incentives provided by the Government of India. With an eye on adopting zero-emission mobility for achieving carbon neutrality in Chandigarh by 2030, the policy envisages that EVs will contribute 70% of new vehicle registrations by the end of the policy period.

While the adoption of EVs can aid better air quality, experts have voiced environmental concerns.

"Electric vehicle has long-term dangers. The lithium ion batteries used in EVs could be dangerous. Lithium as such is a very reactive material and if this enters our food chain, it could have devastating health consequences," Jatinderpal Kundra of the Chandigarh-based environment work group Climategiri and the NGO Save Environment Society said.

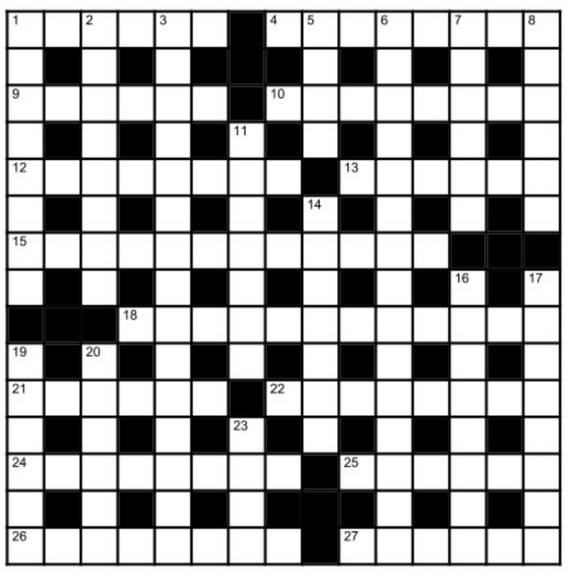
Watch our video
Are Electric Vehicles India's future?
bit.ly/3CbBpSl

TH CROSSWORD + 13670

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Painter's drawing in hospital with a flower (6)
4 Setter's bored by the German boxer's doctrine (8)
9 Destroy one virus caught spreading ultimately deadly disease (6)
10 Letters from cycling buddy encourage husband to move ahead (8)
12 Spooner's hair colour for formal wear (5-3)
13 You and I can get working (6)
15 Two women with shields fighting in rodeo (4,4,4)
18 How a model performs or protests? (7,1,4)
21 Assumes largely reliable president's boring America (6)
22 Cook tosses English eggs in free dessert, say (4,4)
24 Scrap's worth (5,3)
25 Bored Anu runs wild in sex (2,1,3)
26 Married lives need time to weather tear and abuse (8)
27 Old country's part of upper Sialkot (6)

Down

1 Eat quickly and throw on the ground (4,4)
2 Bug in fuse tripping perfect boxes (8)
3 Give authority to stop and interview West Haryana's leading criminal (6,4,5)
5 Decorative object looking lovely basically! (4)
6 Slim odds of a new stagecoach wandering without horse at the lead (1,5,2,1,6)
7 Swallow that is biting many birds in bushes initially (6)
8 Parent taking time to make home run (6)
11 Connection finally back on board (7)
14 Comic hero tries bananas in American's sack (7)
16 Hence, reporters skip over stops (8)
17 Some chatted never bringing up bad blood (8)
19 Copper gets most used for 23, perhaps (6)
20 Durga attacking with Shakti, primarily protects (6)
23 Starts to pray using japa and ritual for Navratri (4)

SUDOKU

		4		8				9
		9	6		2	3		7
7	3							4
2	6			9				
			8		4			
				7			5	6
3							7	8
8		7	4		6	2		
9				3		4		

No.SS5571 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13669

P	A	R	O	L	E		S	T	R	A	W	H	A	T
O		A		A				R		P		A		E
M	O	P	E	D	S		B	A	T	O	N	G	U	N
E		H		Y				N		D		R		A
	R	A	I	L	W	A	Y	S	T	A	T	I	O	N
		E		O		L		I		L		D		C
H	A	L	F	V	O	L	L	E	Y		F	E	N	I
E				E		V		N		L				E
A	C	M	E		R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	T	S
R		O		S		R		L		S		U		
T	U	R	N	K	E	Y	S	Y	S	T	E	M	S	
B		O		Y		W				N		B		E
E	X	C	E	P	T	E	D		M	A	O	I	S	T
A		C		E		L				M		N		A
T	O	O	K	S	I	L	K		B	E	N	G	A	L

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	1	9	8	2	3	5	4	7
8	5	3	7	4	6	2	1	9
4	2	7	9	5	1	6	8	3
9	7	1	5	6	4	8	3	2
5	4	6	2	3	8	7	9	1
3	8	2	1	9	7	4	6	5
7	6	8	3	1	5	9	2	4
2	3	4	6	7	9	1	5	8
1	9	5	4	8	2	3	7	6

FAITH

Adherence to dharma

When Kaikeyi tells Rama that Dasaratha is hesitant to ask Rama to go to the forest, Rama says His father should not hesitate. Whatever Dasaratha orders will be carried out by Him. In fact, Rama is sorry that Kaikeyi and Dasaratha had not understood Him. Had they come to the conclusion that Rama was a man lacking uprightness? Rama's words show how He was meticulous in His adherence to dharma, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar, in a discourse.

Sastras say that an Acharya should be respected above God Himself. One's parents are also to be revered. But one's mother gets the highest respect. Rama would have obeyed any of Dasaratha's three wives, for He was well aware of the special position a mother had, and would never have gone against the Sastras. Leaving Dasaratha's palace, Rama goes to meet Kausalya. Kausalya has, as always, spent her time in observing vratas and in reciting sacred mantras. She tells Rama that He should behave in such a way that the good name of His family is protected. Dasaratha is a man who keeps his word. That being the case, Rama will soon be coronated as announced by Dasaratha. She offers Rama a seat. Rama then slowly breaks the news to her. He says that since He will soon be going to the forest, He has no need of a comfortable seat. In the forest He will have to sit on grass. He will have to eat whatever is available in the forest. Hearing Rama's words, Kausalya faints, and falls to the ground like a branch of a tree that has been cut off. Rama knew how His mother would react to the news of His exile. And so, He had not entered her chambers in a state of agitation. Nor had He made a dramatic announcement of the happenings.

ASKUS

Q I am 55 years old. I have about ₹3 crore accumulated towards retirement and plan to work for the next 2 years. During this time, I can potentially save about ₹3 lakh a month and will have an additional lump sum of ₹30 lakh upon retirement. I have no loans but do anticipate future expenditure of about ₹1.2 crore. As per my calculations, I would need about ₹1.5 lakh per month when I retire to my farm house after providing for 15% inflation over the next three years. I will have rental income of about ₹30,000 a month if I keep my assets. I have disposable assets worth ₹2 crore that I don't intend to dispose unless there's an emergency.
Can you tell me how best to plan the investment of the accumulated corpus as well as the recurring amounts. I would specifically like to know what instruments and what methods. What are the risks with this strategy? What can go wrong? Assuming I would need to provide for living expenses until I am 85, what's the inflation I should budget for annually? Ideally, I would look for near risk-free, 6-7% returns post tax.
SUBRAMANIAM K

A The corpus you would need to retire comfortably would be based, not just on your expected living expenses post-retirement, but also on your dependents, health status, the amount of insurance you have against health issues and emergencies, as also the inflation and return assumptions pre- and post-retirement. To prevent a sharp dent to your capital from health or other emergencies, we suggest you get sufficient health insurance and household insurance and maintain one year's expenses in a liquid avenue such as fixed deposits with leading banks, to tackle emergencies. The health insurance can be a combination of a base policy and a super top up policy, that will kick in once the base policy is exhausted.
Having said this, you can work out your required retirement corpus based on the following thumb rules and assumptions. There are several online calculators that can help you. One, for Indian conditions, it would be desirable to have about 30 times your expected living expenses at the time of retirement to see you through your retirement years. That is, if your annual expenses are ₹18 lakh a year at the time of retirement, you should strive to have about ₹5.4 crore to comfortably tide over your retirement years. If rents etc. will take care of ₹30,000 a month and reduce your annual outgo to about ₹14.4 lakh a year, your corpus should be in the range of ₹4.3 crore. However, this is ballpark and could vary based on your assumed inflation rate and investment pattern. Two, you can assume an inflation rate of 6% per annum pre- and post-retirement, based on consumer price inflation trends in the last two decades. Three, your longevity assumption of 85 years may not be realistic as India's life expectancy across socio-economic strata is today close to 70 years. Folks from higher income strata can expect to live much longer. A longevity assumption of 90 would be safer. Four, striving for a post-tax return of 6-7% from safe avenues would be somewhat unrealistic. It would be better to peg your post-tax return assumption at 5-6%. Your calculations can go awry if inflation or your living expenses over-shoot your assumptions or investment returns fall short, or taxation of returns changes in your retirement years.
As to the options you can use to derive a regular income post-retirement, here are a few:
1. Safe, sovereign-backed instruments such as the post office Senior Citizens Savings Scheme and Post Office Monthly Income Scheme offering 7.4% and 6.6% per annum respectively.
2. Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana from LIC, which offers an assured pension at a 7.4% annual rate for 10 years, for an upfront investment up to ₹15 lakh.
3. Government of India dated securities or State Development Loans (SDLs) can now be bought in primary auctions from RBI on the RBI Retail Direct Gilt platform.
4.Guaranteed pension schemes from LIC and private insurers.
5. Investments in bank FDs or FDs of highly rated NBFCs.
6. Investments in the growth options of debt, hybrid mutual funds, from which you can set up Systematic Withdrawal Plans to receive regular cash flows.
(The writer is Aarati Krishnan)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular.

Blind alley: In an NFO, you have no track record to judge the fund. You do not know if its strategy has helped it beat markets or peers consistently and across market cycles. You don't how volatile or risky it can be. All this is important if you are to know if a fund is worth investing in and if it suits you. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

To do or not to do with new fund offers

An NFO, no matter how differentiated, may again not help much. Therefore, even if it ticks all boxes, the main question is whether adding yet another fund is really needed in your portfolio

YOUR MONEY

Bhavana Acharya

Sixty five. That's the number of new fund and ETF launches since July, a span of just 3 months. The 2021 calendar, too, was peppered with NFOs (new fund offers) with 132 funds coming into the fold.

Many of these NFOs sound impressive or claim to be following differentiated strategies. More, a particular trend in the current crop of NFOs is that of passive launches, mirroring anything from a momentum-based index to value to good old mid-caps or small-caps. It's easy to be tempted - or bewildered - by this spate of new funds. So, here's how you should approach an NFO.

Run of the mill funds

Remember that there are specific categories for equity, debt, and hybrid funds, and an AMC can have a fund for every category (or more than one, in some categories). Therefore, many NFOs are simply AMCs launching funds because there's a category where they do not have a fund yet. The newer AMCs, too, have plenty of ground to cover. And so you can see NFOs in the flexi-cap or focused space, or in gilt constant maturity, money market category, mid-caps and so on. By and large, these funds don't need your attention. They are primarily AMCs bridging the gaps in the product line-up.

In an NFO, remember that you have no track record to judge the fund. You do not know if its strategy has helped it beat markets or peers consistently and across market cycles. You don't how volatile or risky it can be. You don't know its portfolio or how it picks stocks or debt securities. All this is important if you are to know if a fund is worth investing in and if it suits you.

Further, note that these categories already have a variety of funds. It's perfectly possible to pick a fund with an established track record, where you can understand consistency in performance, strategy, and suitability. Given the current wide range of funds in most categories, it's rare that you will find an NFO that's truly differentiated in what it does - which, in any case, will be clear only after it gathers some record of portfolio or performance.

For these NFOs, thus, it's best to wait. Understand how it builds its portfolio and how it returns before going for them. After all, these are open-ended funds and you can invest in them any time. You gain no advantage in an NFO over other funds. You can always afford to watch performance and add it later to your portfolio if an NFO trots out top-notch performance.

The only area where this may not apply is sector or thematic NFOs. For sector funds and those based on specific themes such as consumption or manufacturing, timing is important. Past performance is also less of a concern here

> Many NFOs are simply AMCs launching funds because there's a category where they do not have a fund yet.

as sectors run through cycles. You also know more or less where the fund will invest. A new fund, therefore, may return handsomely if the timing works and it makes the right picks - though it is still riskier to take a call on a fund with no performance record. The pedigree of the AMC in its other funds can be of some help here to take a decision.

The passive question

The lack of performance data is not a concern with passive funds, which aim to mirror a specific index (debt or equity). Since index information is usually available, you can check various factors such as volatility and performance, as well as index composition.

But the passive game, too, has grown in complexity! No longer are the index funds and ETFs simply based on plain-vanilla indices. Recent NFOs have primarily been built on 'factor' indices or thematic indices which aren't all that simple to understand or easy to include in a portfolio and maintain.

That means you shouldn't go for an NFO just because it is a passive one and do not assume all passive funds are good. The call depends on the underlying index. It's easy for the main market indices such as the Nifty, Sensex, Nifty or BSE 500 or the Nifty Midcap 150 and so on. However, for index funds built on other aspects, it becomes important to check whether that index offers better returns or better opportunities than these main indices.

For example, consider factor indices. These indices use some metrics to measure specific aspects of a stock such as low volatility or quality or value to decide the composition of the index and weight of a stock.

These factors may sound great, but the index could in reality be worse than the plain old Nifty 50! They could work in some market cycles but not in others. They may call for a more tactical approach than a long-term one.

Therefore, where the passive NFO is based on a different index other than the primary market indices, run a check on the underlying index before taking a call. An additional caution is needed for ETF NFOs, as your returns will depend on the liquidity of the ETF.

Do you need it?

Holding a large number of funds does not help your portfolio and makes it harder to manage. Your portfolio may also already be adequately diversified, and an NFO, no matter how differentiated, may not help. Thus, even if an NFO ticks all the boxes, ask whether your portfolio really needs another fund.

(The writer is co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Crash course

COVERNOTE

Insurance companies have long been offering simple and very inexpensive personal accident policies. There are varying compensations for permanent and temporary partial disablements

When a car crashes, families and futures crash and burn. All because treatment expenses and loss of earnings ruin even robust middle-class families.

Insurance companies have long been offering simple and very inexpensive personal accident policies. If I had a hospitalisation policy, that would cover most of my treatment bills. If I had a personal accident policy for ₹15 lakh over and above this, my family would receive ₹15 lakh for death in an accident or if it results in a permanent disablement, with compensations varying for permanent partial disablement and temporary partial disablement. All this at an annual premium of less than ₹400 a year for a 30-year-old.

A common man's version of this is the personal insurance policy under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) umbrella called Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

For a premium of ₹20 per year, PMSBY offers a ₹2 lakh accidental death cover and up to ₹1 lakh for disablement for any 18- to 70-year-old who signs up through a bank account with Aadhaar as identity proof.

The third personal insurance scheme under JDY, PMSBY, like the life insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), is administered through banks and offered by all public sector general insurance companies and any other general insurance company opting to offer it. With your bank account you can sign up for the policy and allow auto debit of premium each year. The bank holds the master policy and you are a member. The signing up formalities are a one-page form and the bank takes care of the rest. Claims are also dealt with by the bank.

This policy can be in addition to any other policy you have, whether indemnity or benefit policies, and is simplicity itself.

The central government had its own initiatives called the Universal Health Insurance Scheme which followed the Jan Arogya Bima Yojana and others.

Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission combined the central schemes Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

Ayushman Bharat offers hospitalisation expenses of up to ₹5 lakh per beneficiary family across the country. Targeting over 10 crore below the poverty line families, the scheme offers not only cashless treatment, but is also portable countrywide, serving the needs of migrant workers and their families. The scheme covers secondary and tertiary treatment at government or private hospitals with which there is a pre-negotiated package rate.

(The writer K. Nitya Kalyani is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
AU Small Finance Bank	6.90	5.35	6.90	6.90
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.60	6.20	6.20	6.20
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.25	6.75	7.00	6.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.25	5.50	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	7.50	6.75	7.00	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.35	7.00	7.25	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.49	6.50	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.15	7.50	7.50
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Axis Bank	5.75	5.45	5.70	5.75
Bandhan Bank	7.00	7.00	7.00	5.60
CSB Bank	6.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.50	5.75	6.25	6.25
DCB Bank	6.60	6.10	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	6.10	5.50	5.50	6.10
ICICI Bank	6.10	5.50	5.60	6.10
IDFC First Bank	6.90	5.75	6.50	6.50
IndusInd Bank	6.75	6.25	6.75	6.75
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	6.25	6.25	5.75	6.00
Karnataka Bank	6.20	6.20	5.65	5.65
Karur Vysya Bank	6.10	6.10	6.10	6.10
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.10	5.75	6.10	6.10
Nainital Bank	6.05	5.75	5.60	5.60
RBL Bank	7.00	6.50	6.55	6.55
SBM Bank India	7.25	7.25	7.25	6.15
South Indian Bank	6.40	6.40	5.90	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.75	5.50	5.75	5.75
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Bank of Baroda	6.00	5.50	5.55	5.65
Bank of India	5.50	5.30	5.35	5.35
Bank of Maharashtra	5.50	5.40	5.40	5.40
Canara Bank	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.75
Indian Bank	5.75	5.45	5.75	5.65
Indian Overseas Bank	6.00	5.60	5.85	5.85
Punjab National Bank	6.10	5.50	5.60	5.75
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.80	5.65	5.75	5.75
State Bank of India	6.10	5.45	5.60	5.65
Union Bank of India	5.80	5.35	5.50	5.75
FOREIGN BANKS				
Citibank	6.10	6.10	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.00	5.50	6.50	7.00
HSBC Bank	6.00	3.10	4.00	4.00

Rates as on Septermber 21

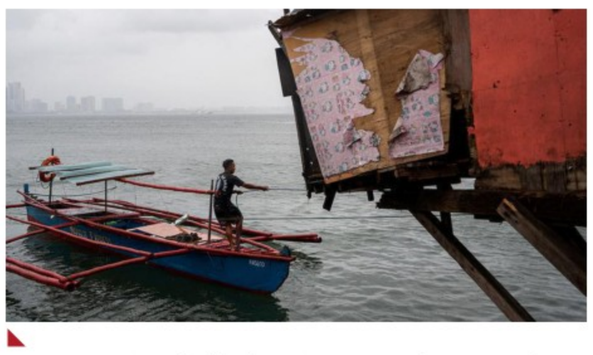
Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
State Bank of India	8.05-9.05	8.05-8.95	8.05-8.95
Bank of Baroda	7.95-9.45	7.95-9.45	7.95-9.70
Union Bank of India	7.90-9.65	7.90-9.85	7.90-9.85
Punjab National Bank	7.95-9.35	7.90-9.05	7.90-9.00
Bank of India	7.80-9.65	7.80-9.65	7.80-9.65
Canara Bank	8.05-12.85	8.05-12.85	8.05-12.85
UCO Bank	7.90-8.10	7.90-8.10	7.90-8.10
Bank of Maharashtra	7.80-9.70	7.80-9.85	7.80-9.95
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.90-9.00	7.90-9.00	7.90-9.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.45-8.80	8.55-8.80	8.70-8.80
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	>=7.99	>=7.99	>=7.99
ICICI Bank	8.10-9.00	8.10-9.00	8.10-9.10
Axis Bank	8.10-13.00	8.10-13.00	8.10-8.55
HSBC Bank	7.85-8.70	7.85-8.70	7.85-8.70
South Indian Bank	8.75-11.50	8.75-11.50	8.75-11.50
Karur Vysya Bank	8.05-10.25	8.05-10.25	8.05-10.25
Karnataka Bank	8.16-9.41	8.16-9.41	8.16-9.51
Federal Bank	9.05-9.10	7.77-9.15	7.77-9.20
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.60-9.75	8.60-9.75	8.60-9.75
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.30	8.30	8.30
Bandhan Bank	7.80-14.00	7.80-13.15	7.80-13.15
RBL Bank	10.80-12.50	9.20-9.60	9.20-9.50
CSB Bank	9.69	9.69	9.94
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.00-9.50	8.00-9.70	8.00-9.90
HDFC Ltd.	8.10-9.50	8.35-9.75	8.45-9.85
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.70 onwards	7.70 onwards	7.70 onwards
Tata Capital	>=8.10	>=8.10	>=8.10
PNB Housing Finance	7.99-12.50	7.99-12.50	8.10-11.20
GIC Housing Finance	>=8.10	>=8.10	>=8.10
Repco Home Finance	>=8.10	>=8.10	>=8.10
Indiabulls Housing	>=8.70	>=8.70	>=8.70
Aditya Birla Capital	8.00-13.00	8.00-13.00	8.00-13.00
ICICI Home Finance	>=9.20	>=9.20	>=9.20
Godrej Housing Finance	7.99-10.99	7.94-10.99	7.94-10.99
Home First Finance	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00

Rates as on September 22 *Source: Paisabazaar.com*

MANILA

Super Typhoon Noru hits north Philippines, thousands evacuated



A man preparing to dock his boat in preparation for Super Typhoon Noru in Manila on Sunday. With sustained winds of 195 kph and gusts of up to 240 kph, the typhoon slammed into northeastern Philippines and barrelled towards the capital in a densely populated path where thousands have been evacuated to safety. REUTERS

ABU DHABI

UAE agrees to supply Germany with much-needed gas and diesel

United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz witnessing the signing of a New Energy Security and Industry Accelerator agreement in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. The deal comes as Berlin searches for new power sources to replace Russian supplies. REUTERS

MOSCOW

Russia vows to fix mistakes after old and sick people mobilised

Russian recruits standing near a military centre in Krasnodar on Sunday. Authorities promised to fix mistakes in their troop call-up for Ukraine, after outrage over students, older or sick people being ordered to report for duty. President Vladimir Putin had ordered a partial mobilisation of reservists to beef up his forces in Ukraine. AP

SEOUL

South Korea says North Korea test-fired missile toward sea

People watching a news report on North Korea firing a ballistic missile towards the sea off its east coast, in Seoul, South Korea, on Sunday. The launch of the short-range missile came as the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan* and its strike group arrived in South Korea for joint military exercises. AP

Chinese Communist Party picks national congress delegates

The 2,296 delegates will attend the all-important event that is expected to further bolster the Chinese President Xi Jinping's sway over the party

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China's ruling Communist Party on Sunday announced it had chosen the 2,296 delegates who will attend an all-important, twice-a-decade national congress on October 16 that is expected to further bolster President Xi Jinping's sway over the party.

The Party said the delegates were "elected in accordance with the Party Constitution" and "under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era", referring to the Chinese leader's official ideology which has already been written into the Party Constitution.

The week-long congress, which is likely to mark the start of an unprecedented third five-year term for Mr. Xi, will pass several amendments to the Party Constitution, some of which will further enshrine Mr. Xi's status in the party on a par with former leaders Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.

Tight hold: The congress will pass amendments to the Party Constitution, some of which will further enshrine Xi Jinping's status on a par with former leaders Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping. AP

Core status

Among considered constitutional amendments is a move to officially mark Mr. Xi's status as a "core" of the party leadership and to require all Party members to commit to upholding Mr. Xi's "core" status as well as ideology.

Announcing the congress delegates, the official *People's Daily*, in an editorial, said the "Congress will be a congress of unity... under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core".

Sound plans

"The congress will lay out sound plans on the targets, tasks and major policies for the cause of the Party and the country in the next five years and beyond," the paper said.

It added that the event "will take stock of the Party's work over the past five years, as well as major achievements and valuable experience of the Party's Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core in uniting and leading the whole Party and Chinese people."

The delegates, who will approve the amendments to the Constitution and other policies by "voting" – although the approvals are a foregone conclusion at such events – include representatives from different government Ministries and the military, as well as figures involved in science and technology, culture and sport.

Among the military's delegates to the congress is the PLA Commander in the Galwan Valley who was involved and injured in the June 2020 clash and was later given honours by the Central Military Commission, which Mr. Xi heads.

Far-right eyes first government since Second World War in Italy

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Italians voted on Sunday on whether to usher in the country's first government led by the far-right since the Second World War, bringing eurosceptic populists to the heart of Europe.

The Brothers of Italy party, headed by one-time Mussolini supporter Giorgia Meloni, has led opinion polls and looks set to take office in a coalition with the far-right League and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia parties.

Ms. Meloni, 45, who campaigned on a motto of "God, country and family", hopes to become Italy's first woman Prime Minister. Turnout was around 19% by 1000 GMT, according to the Interior Ministry, in line with the last election in 2018.

"I'm playing to win, not just to take part," Matteo Salvini, head of the far-right League, told reporters as he went to cast his ballot. "I can't wait to come back from tomorrow as part of the government of this extraordinary country," he added.

Making a choice: People looking at lists of candidates at a polling station in Milan on Sunday. AP

President Sergio Mattarella and Enrico Letta, leader of the centre-left Democratic Party, also voted early on Sunday.

Many voters are expected to pick Ms. Meloni, "the novelty, the only leader the Italians have not yet tried", Wolfango Piccoli of the Teneo consultancy said.

Brussels and the markets are watching closely, amid concern that Italy – a founding member of the European Union – may be the latest country to veer hard right, less than two weeks after the far right outperformed in elections in Sweden.

If she wins, Ms. Meloni will face challenges from rampant inflation to an energy crisis as winter approaches, linked to the conflict in Ukraine.

The Italian economy, the third largest in the eurozone, rebounded after the pandemic but is saddled with a debt worth 150% of the gross domestic product.

24 killed after boat carrying pilgrims sinks in Bangladesh

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

At least 24 people were killed and around the same number were missing on Sunday after an overcrowded boat carrying Hindu pilgrims capsized in a river in Bangladesh, the police said.

"Firefighters and divers are searching for more bodies," local police official Shafiqul Islam said, confirming that 24 deaths had been confirmed so far, most of them women and children.

The boat was packed with up to 50 pilgrims, the police said.

They were travelling to a centuries-old temple when the vessel suddenly tipped over and sank in the middle of the Karotoa river near the town of Boda in northern Bangladesh.

Thousands of Hindus in Muslim-majority Bangladesh visit the Bodeshwari Temple every year.

No leniency, vows Iran's judiciary chief

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Iran's judiciary chief vowed no leniency on Sunday against the wave of unrest that has rocked the country since the death of young Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini in the custody of the morality police.

The warning by the head of the Judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, came after nine nights of protests and street clashes and echoed earlier comments by ultra-conservative President Ebrahim Raisi.

At least 41 people have died so far, mostly protesters but including members of the Islamic republic's security forces, according to an official toll, although human rights groups say the real figure is higher.

The judiciary chief "emphasised the need for decisive action without leniency" against the core instigators of the "riots", the judiciary's Mizan Online website said.

Strong statement: A videograb showing demonstrators burning their headscarves and setting fire to a trash bin in Tehran. AFP

Iran's largest protests in almost three years have been led by women over the Islamic republic's strictly enforced gender-based dress code.

Some protesters have since taken off and burnt their hijabs in the rallies and cut off their hair, some dancing near bonfires to the applause of crowds that have chanted "*zan, zendegi, azadi*" or "woman, life, freedom".

Watch the video
Why are women in Iran cutting their hair in protest?
bit.ly/3dKREw7

Sport

West demolishes South, bags Duleep Trophy

S. Dinakar
COIMBATORE

West Zone moved in for the kill like a pack of wolves. But then, it was kept waiting at the door for 112 minutes by a dogged left-handed seventh-wicket pair of Ravi Teja and Sai Kishore.

Once the breakthrough was made, West could not be denied the Duleep Trophy – it won by a massive 294 runs – on day five at the Sri Ramakrishna College ground here on Sunday.

South was dismissed for 234, 22 minutes before lunch. It was West all the way in a tournament it last won in 2010.

But, the wait in the morning was frustrating as Teja and Kishore added 57 off 147 balls. Seamer Chintan Gaja eventually broke the partnership with a well-directed short-pitched ball Sai fended to gully.

Victorious: The West Zone team celebrates the end of a successful campaign. M. PERIASAMY

Soon it was all over. Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, short in stature so there was a nice parabola in flight, scalped four. He also has an arm ball, with which he trapped Teja (54, 75b, 3x4, 1x6) as the left-hander played back.

Teja batted and bowled with heart in the match. In the first innings, the left-hander faced 74 balls for his pugnacious 34 and was last man dismissed. In West's second innings, he was the pick of the South seamers.

Batting in the second innings, Teja once again displayed sound temperament, taking on the pacemen and spinners with footwork and belief.

Sai (7, 72b) batting reminds one of a young Ravi Shastri except that he bats left-handed. He is tall and firmly gets behind the line against pacemen, and despite his mode of dismissal in this innings, rises on his toes to keep the short-pitched deliveries down.

South threw up some questions but Rahane's tactically sound West had the right answers.

The scores: West Zone — 1st innings: 270.

South Zone — 1st innings: 327.

West — 2nd innings: 585/4 decl.

South — 2nd innings: Rohan Kunnummal b Mulani 93, Mayank Agarwal c Kotian b Unadkat 14, Hanuma Vihari c Het b Sheth 1, B. Indrajith c Mulani b Sheth 4, Manish Pandey lbw b Unadkat 14, Ricky Bhui c Rahane b Mulani 13, R. Sai Kishore c Panchal b Gaja 7, Ravi Teja lbw b Mulani 53, K. Gowtham c Unadkat b Kotian 17, Basil Thampi c Sarfaraz b Mulani 0, C. Stephen (not out) 0; Extras (b-5, lb-13): 18; Total (in 71.2 overs): 234.

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-39, 3-47, 4-91, 5-139, 6-146, 7-203, 8-226, 9-230.

West bowling: Unadkat 13.3-7-28-2, Gaja 15-1-47-1, Sheth 4.3-0-29-2, Kotian 20.2-5-61-1, Mulani 18-2-51-4.

MoM: Jaiswal; **MoS:** Unadkat.

Rahane chastens Jaiswal

S. Dinakar
COIMBATORE

The incident happened in the 53rd over of South's second innings of the Duleep Trophy final.

The umpires had a word with Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravi Teja and West skipper Ajinkya Rahane.

Jaiswal had been fielding at short-leg. In the 55th over when Jaiswal was standing in the second slip – paceman Chintan Gaja was the bowler – he was asked by Rahane to leave the field.

Ungentlemanly conduct

It was clear that Rahane, who had led the team with imagination, had asked Jaiswal to leave.

The youngster had been sledging the South batters and, in the process, had crossed a line that was unacceptable to Rahane.

Rahane said later, "You have to follow the rules, respect the game, the opponents and the umpires.

"That is the way I have always played my cricket and will continue to play. Certain things you have to follow on the field.

"If you are not following that you have to go off the field. It is as simple as that. That is my mantra."

He observed, "I give freedom to my players, at the same time they should not take anything for granted.

"It's a team sport, it's a dignified sport, you should respect your opponents."

Jaiswal made a match-winning 265 for West but that did not influence gentleman cricketer Rahane.

The chastened Jaiswal returned after a few overs but Rahane had taught him an important cricketing lesson.

Rahane was, however, impressed with Jaiswal's batting and said, "Credit to him, he batted very well."

Pat for Unadkat

The West skipper also praised left-arm paceman Jaydev Unadkat for his passion and commitment, the manner in which he follows his process and how he has maintained his intensity levels and evolved.

South skipper Hanuma Vihari said, "We could have bowled and batted better in the first innings.

"Then we dropped so many catches."

West was certainly not complaining.

Team World clinches Laver Cup

Frances Tiafoe led Team World to its first Laver Cup title as the American saved four match points in a dramatic victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas, denying Roger Federer a farewell trophy on Sunday.

Tiafoe won 1-6, 7-6(11), [10-8] in the penultimate match of the tournament in London. That was enough to give John McEnroe's Team World a 13-8 victory.

Carlsen beats Arjun in first set of two-set final

Magnus Carlsen cruised to a 2.5-0.5 win over Arjun Erigaisi in the first set of the two-set final of the $150,000 Julius Baer Generation Cup online chess tournament on Saturday.

Carlsen won the first two games and drew the next to win the best-of-four contest.

In the FIDE Women's GP in Astana, R. Vaishali drew with China's Zhu Jiner to reach 3.5 points from seven rounds.

Kipchoge sets new mark at Berlin Marathon

Kenyan great Eliud Kipchoge beat his own World marathon record by 30 seconds, running the Berlin Marathon in 2hr 01min 10sec on Sunday.

The back-to-back Olympic champion (Rio and Tokyo) bested his own record from Berlin in 2018. Kenyan Mark Korir finished second in 2:05:58s, while Ethiopian Tadu Abate came third in a time of 2:06:28s.

Rizwan stars as Pakistan levels series 2-2

Mohammad Rizwan made a fluent 88 (67b, 9x4, 1x6) while Haris Rauf and Mohammed Nawaz took three wickets each as Pakistan edged England by three runs in an exciting finish to the fourth T20I in Karachi on Sunday. The win squared the seven-match series 2-2.

The scores:
Pakistan 166/4 in 20 overs (Mohd. Rizwan 88) bt England 163 in 19.2 overs (Haris Rauf 3/32, Mohd. Nawaz 3/35).

Suryakumar and Kohli power India to thrilling series win

The former smashes a 36-ball 69 while the latter contributes 63 off 48 deliveries as the Men In Blue, chasing a target of 187, cross the finish line with a ball to spare; Axar and Chahal chip in with the ball; Green, David knocks go in vain for Australia

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Suryakumar Yadav and Virat Kohli carved out half-centuries to orchestrate India's thrilling six-wicket win with a ball to spare in the third and final T20I against Australia at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium on Sunday. The victory gave Rohit's men a 2-1 series triumph.

Chasing a daunting target of 187, the Men in Blue lost opener K.L. Rahul and Rohit before the end of the fourth over. No. 3 Kohli and Suryakumar started cautiously before opening out to forge a 104-run partnership in just over 10 overs.

Suryakumar (69, 36b, 5x4, 5x6) unleashed his barrage of shots, scattering the bowling to all parts of the ground with his trademark strokes. At the other end, Kohli (63, 48b, 3x4, 4x6) proved a perfect support cast to keep the chase going.

Though Suryakumar perished trying to clear long-off in the 14th over, Hardik Pandya (25 n.o., 16b, 2x4, 1x6) complemented the former skipper. With 11 off the final over bowled by left-arm seamer Daniel Sams, Kohli smashed a six off the first ball before hitting straight to Aussie captain Aaron Finch at extra-cover.

A calm Hardik guided the fifth ball to the third-man boundary to trigger celebrations in the Indian dug-out and the stands.

Earlier, opener Cameron Green and No. 6 Tim David's blazed away to half-centuries, propelling Australia to 186 for seven.

Sky's the limit! Suryakumar showed his range during his game-changing innings. NAGARA GOPAL

Green started off as if it were another shootout like the one in Nagpur where the teams played an eight-over-a-side game. He smashed a magnificent six off the second ball of the innings off Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who returned to the side. Green treated Jasprit Bumrah with contempt – carting him for a four and two sixes – as the bowler conceded 17 in his first over. He also meted out a similar treatment to left-arm spinner Axar Patel as Australia raced to 66 for two in the PowerPlay.

Bhuvneshwar came back strongly, inducing a false stroke from Green.

Glenn Maxwell was run out, thanks to a fine throw from the deep by Axar while Steve Smith failed to come good again, stumped by Dinesh Karthik off Yuzvendra Chahal.

Australia was reduced to 117 for six in 13.5 overs when Tim David and Daniel Sams joined hands.

David (54, 27b, 2x4, 4x6) was at his characteristic best, hitting boundaries at will. But it wasn't enough once Suryakumar and Kohli got going.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA

Cameron Green c Rahul b Bhuvneshwar 52 *(21b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Aaron Finch c Hardik b Axar 7 *(6b, 1x4)*, Steve Smith st. Karthik b Chahal 9 *(10b, 1x4)*, Glenn Maxwell run out 6 *(11b, 1x4)*, Josh Inglis c Rohit b Axar 24 *(22b, 3x4)*, Tim David c Rohit b Harshal 54 *(27b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Matthew Wade c & b Axar 1 *(3b)*, Daniel Sams (not out) 28 *(20b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Pat Cummins (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-3, nb-1): 5; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 186.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-44 (Finch, 3.3 overs), 2-62 (Green, 4.6), 3-75 (Maxwell, 7.4), 4-84 (Smith, 9.2), 5-115 (Inglis, 13.1), 6-117 (Wade, 13.5), 7-185 (David, 19.3).

INDIA BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 3-0-39-1, Axar 4-0-33-3, Bumrah 4-0-50-0, Hardik 3-0-23-0, Chahal 4-0-22-1, Harshal 2-0-18-1.

INDIA
K.L. Rahul c Wade b Sams 1 *(4b)*, Rohit Sharma c Sams b Cummins 17 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli c Finch b Sams 63 *(48b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Finch b Hazlewood 69 *(36b, 5x4, 5x6)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 25 *(16b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-6): 11; Total (for four wkts. in 19.5 overs): 187.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Rahul, 0.6), 2-30 (Rohit, 3.4), 3-134 (Suryakumar, 13.6), 4-182 (Kohli, 19.2).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Sams 3.5-0-33-2, Hazlewood 4-0-40-1, Zampa 4-0-44-0, Cummins 4-0-40-1, Green 3-0-14-0, Maxwell 1-0-11-0.

Toss: India; **MoM:** Suryakumar; **MoS:** Axar.

India won by six wickets with one ball remaining, bags series 2-1.

The Jhulan Express

Jhulan had an incredible run that lasted 20 years and 261 days. The journey began on Jan. 6, 2002, in Chennai in an ODI against England and ended at Lord's, against the same opponent in the same format, on Sept. 24, 2022

THE LONG SPELL

TESTS

M	Inns	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	SR	5WI/10WM
12	21	44	5/25	17.36	51.5	3/1

Debut: January 14-17 **vs.** England, *Lucknow, 2002*

Final match: September 30-October 3 **vs.** Australia, *Carrara, 2021*

23y 277d Youngest woman to take a 10-wicket match haul in the longest format (**vs.** England, *Taunton, 2006*)

10/78 Her effort is the best by an Indian woman in Tests

ODIs

M	Inns	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	4W/5W
204	203	255	6/31	22.04	3.37	7/2

Debut: January 6 **vs.** England, *Chennai, 2002*

Final match: September 24 **vs.** England, *Lord's, 2022*

204 Along with Mithali (232), Jhulan is the only player to figure in more than 200 WODIs

255 Has the distinction of being the only bowler to scalp over 200 wickets

43 Leads the wicket-taking chart in the World Cup

6/31 Her bowling figures (vs. NZ, 2011) is the second best by a captain after Mamatha Maben (6/10, India vs. Sri Lanka, 2004)

10,005 Has bowled the most deliveries in WODIs

1000 & 100 Only Indian to score 1000-plus runs (1228) and take more than 100 wickets (255)

69 Her tally of catches is next only to Suzie Bates' 79

Jhulan's is the second longest career in WODIs after Mithali's 22 years and 274 days

Her haul of **355** wickets across formats is the best in women's cricket

T20Is

M	Inns	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	5W
68	67	56	5/11	21.94	5.45	1

Debut: August 5 **vs.** England, *Derby, 2006*

Final match: June 10 **vs.** Bangladesh, *Kuala Lumpur, 2018*

5/11 Her figures (vs Australia, 2012) is the best by an Indian in the shortest format

14 Most maiden overs delivered by an Indian in WT20Is

Captaincy record

ODIs	M 25	W 12	L 13
T20Is	M 18	W 8	L 10

■ She won the ICC Women's Player of the Year award in 2007

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

COMPILED BY **R. NARAYANAN & G. PRASAD** | GRAPHIC: **A. GANESHAN**

Jhulan will sorely be missed in the Indian seam ranks

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

Her long arms went up in the air. She broke into a broad smile. The crowd cheered. Her teammates sprinted towards her. They hugged her. She was still smiling, soaking up the moment, possibly for one last time, relishing the sound most musical to a bowler's ears – of the stumps being rattled.

It was wicket No. 255 for Jhulan Goswami in Women's ODIs. The second on the list has 191 (Shabnim Ismail). It was also wicket No. 355 for Jhulan in international women's cricket. The second on the list has 329 (Katherine Brunt).

We do not know for sure how long Jhulan will be on top of those lists. What we know is that we would be lucky if women's cricket could produce another bowler like her.

A skilful, hard-working bowler who could carry a country's attack on her shoulders for two decades like her.

And she has been one half of a magnificent duo that helped the Indian women's cricketers check out of dormitories and check into five-star hotels.

The other half, Mithali Raj, retired a few months ago. Suddenly, the Indian women's team is without its own Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev.

While gifted batters like Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Kaur and Shafali Verma have lessened the impact of the loss of Mithali, India's seam attack will miss the consistency, accuracy and the wicket-taking ability of Jhulan.

Bowlers like Pooja Vastrakar, Renuka Singh and Meghna Singh offer hope, though.

When Jhulan took up fast bowling, after watching Australia's Cathryn Fitzpatrick in the 1997 Women's World Cup final at Kolkata's Eden Gardens, where she was a ball girl, she probably didn't have any Indian female quick to emulate. She had begun playing with the tennis ball and copied the actions of Kapil Dev, Javagal Srinath and Malcolm Marshall after watching them on TV.

Little could she have imagined that she would inspire so many girls across India to take up pace bowling, one of the most demanding jobs in cricket.

That she excelled in such a job for some 20 years – just rewind her inswinger to Beth Mooney in the pink-ball Test against Australia last year – is truly remarkable. She has been the James Anderson of women's cricket.

It is a little unfortunate that the last moment of her career was marred by the Deepti Sharma incident. But, before that, her teammates, the England players, the crowd and even the umpires at Lord's had shown how much respect she commanded as one-of-a-kind cricketer.

Kuldeep's hat-trick, Prithvi's blitz help India-A seal one-day series

INDIA-A VS NZ-A

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Kuldeep Yadav's four-wicket haul (4/51), including a hat-trick, followed by Prithvi Shaw's rapid 77 (48b, 11x4, 3x6) helped India-A beat New Zealand-A by four wickets in the second one-dayer at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday.

With this win, the hosts clinched the three-match series 2-0 but not before making heavy weather of a modest chase.

Electing to field, the visitors were bowled out for 219 with Kuldeep cleaning up the tail, taking the last four wickets.

Chasing 220, Shaw treated the few thousand fans to some scintillating stroke-play on a two-paced pitch. He started with a flick to fine-leg to get going before playing some beautiful drives down the ground.

Applying the skids: Kuldeep ran through the lower-order to finish with four wickets. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

He hit Sean Solia for two sixes over the leg side with the second one taking him to his 50 off just 26 balls.

Shaw then went after pacer Jacob Duffy, hitting him for three boundaries in one over as India-A got to 110 for one in 13 overs.

However, the hosts lost three quick wickets to slip from 131 for one to 134 for four. Skipper Sanju Samson got the chase on track with a quick 37 before he fell to the Kiwi bowlers' strategy of bouncing out the batters from around the wicket.

Logan Van Beek had Samson and Raj Bawa caught attempting pull shots in the same over. With India-A at 180 for six, there was a glimmer of hope for NZ-A but Shardul Thakur (25 n.o.) and Rishi Dhawan (22 n.o.) ensured the series win.

Earlier, opener Rachin Ravindra (61, 65b, 9x4) and Joe Carter (72, 80b, 1x4, 3x6) made half-centuries for the Kiwis.

The scores: New Zealand-A 219 in 47 overs (Joe Carter 72, Rachin Ravindra 61, Kuldeep Yadav 4/51) lost to India-A 222/6 in 34 overs (Prithvi Shaw 77, Sanju Samson 37, Ruturaj Gaikwad 30, Logan Van Beek 3/46).

Award wickets to bowlers for presence of mind: Ashwin

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Off-spinner R. Ashwin on Sunday said wickets ought to be credited to bowlers' accounts when they run out batters at the non-striker's end for backing up too far, as it requires "presence of mind".

Going by the ICC manual, Deepti Sharma's run out of Charlie Dean in the third ODI was perfectly legal, but it still divided opinion with many backing it while Englishmen expressing their annoyance.

Ashwin recommended a bravery award for the bowler. "How about awarding that wicket to the bowler for "presence of mind" under immense pressure knowing the social stigma that he/she would have to deal with post doing it."

'Don't think it was any crime'

Press Trust of India
LONDON

India women's captain Harmanpreet Kaur says her side committed "no crime" after completing a whitewash of England on English soil with a 'legal yet debatable' run out.

"Today whatever we have done I don't think it was any crime," Harmanpreet said at the post-match press conference.

"It is part of the game and it is an ICC rule and I think we just need to back our player. I'm actually very happy she was aware of that, and the batter was taking too long a stride. I don't think she has done something wrong."

INBRIEF

Indian men bag junior team trap gold

The Indian trio of Shardul Vihan, Shapath Bharadwaj and Arya Vansh Tyagi won the trap team junior men's gold, beating Italy 6-4 in the shotgun World Championship in Osijek, Croatia, on Saturday. India entered the final by winning a shoot-off against the USA 2-0, after the teams had tied with 205 in the qualification round. The Italians Emanuele Iezzi, Gianmarco Barletta and Edoardo Antonioli took a 4-0 lead in the gold medal match. India won the next three rounds 13-12, 15-14 and 14-12 to clinch the gold. The Indian junior women's team of Sabeera Haris, Preeti Rajak and Aadya Tripathi shot 172 and finished seventh.

The results: Trap: Men: 1. India (Arya Vansh Tyagi, Shapath Bharadwaj, Shardul Vihan) 6 (205)2; 2. Italy Emanuele Iezzi, Gianmarco Barletta, Edoardo Antonioli) 4 (206); 3. USA 6 (205)0; 4. Spain 0 (204).

Injured boxer Lovlina to miss National Games

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain will not take part in the National Games in Gujarat due to a minor injury she suffered on her nose during the selection trials for the upcoming Asian championships in Amman, said National women's boxing team's chief coach Bhaskar Bhatt on Sunday.

Direct entry for three Indians to IBSF World billiards

India's Pankaj Advani, Sourav Kothari and Dhruv Sitwala have been granted direct entry into the IBSF World billiards championship to be held in Kuala Lumpur from October 4 to 8. This year's championship will be played in the 150-up point format.

Rampant Portugal blows past Czech Republic

Luis Enrique's experiment of starting Asensio in a false nine comes a cropper as Spain flops against Switzerland at home in Zaragoza

NATIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
BARCELONA

Diogo Dalot helped Portugal take control of its Nations League group by scoring his first two international goals in a 4-0 rout at the Czech Republic on Saturday.

Spain blew its lead of Group A2 after flopping in a 2-1 loss to Switzerland in front of its disappointed fans in Zaragoza.

Portugal moved two points ahead of Spain before the neighbours meet in Braga on Tuesday in a winner-take-all clash to see which advances to the tournament's final four next June.

Two-goal hero: Dalot scores Portugal's third against the Czech Republic. AP

Luis Enrique, who last year guided Spain to the semifinals of the European Championship and the final of the Nations League, is known for making unpopular decisions and sticking to them.

And, once again, he surprised by starting Marco Asensio, who has been relegated to a substitute role at club Real Madrid, as a false nine while leaving pure strikers Álvaro Morata and newcomer Borja Iglesias on the bench.

And Spain failed to disturb the Swiss in attack

The results: League A: Group 2: Czech Republic 0 lost to Portugal 4 (Dalot 33, 52, Bruno Fernandes 45+2, Diogo Jota 82); Spain 1 (Jordi Alba 55) lost to Switzerland 1 (Akanji 21, Embolo 59).

SAI expels athlete found in possession of syringe

GENERAL

Sports Bureau

An athlete at the Sports Authority of India National Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru has been suspended after syringes were found in his room.

It is understood that the issue came to light last week after searches were conducted at the hostel premises based on a tip-off. The athlete, whose identity has been withheld, reportedly belongs to Tamil Nadu and is around 20 years of age.

The NCEs house the cream of available talent in India and provide specialised training to promising athletes, alongside sports science, nutrition and dietary support.

"An athlete was found in possession of the syringe and he has since been removed from the system," confirmed a SAI South Centre official, who chose to remain anonymous. "When we conducted the search, we found the syringe but didn't find any illegal or banned substances. There were just some protein and other supplements. But we have zero tolerance towards such things under our 'No Needle Policy'. We do feel sorry for him and we tried to find out how he got it. But we are still unaware and as administrators we cannot get emotional," he added.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Roots FC wins big

Roots FC blanked Mysore Vijayanagara FA 4-0 in the under-18 section of the KSFA Premier League boys' football tournament.

The results: Under-9: BSSSS bt BCFC 3-1; Coolulu FA bt Goal Football FC 3-1; Vicky FA bt Kickstart FC 2-0; Ronaldo FC bt Roots FC 2-0; FCBU bt Conscient FC 4-2; **U-11:** BSSSS bt Stadium FC 3-2; AIFA bt BYFL 4-0; BYFL bt Bangalore Balaharkha FA 3-1; JSW BFC Academy bt Kickstart FC 5-1; **U-18:** AIFA bt BSSS 12-0; Raman SA bt IFEP 3-1; Roots FC bt Mysore Vijayanagara FA 4-0; Kickstart FC bt Belgaum Utd 5-1; BBFS bt Snipers FC 5-0.

Bengaluru Blues HC, Jude Felix HA triumph

Bengaluru Blues HC and Jude Felix HA emerged the women's and men's champions respectively in the Bengaluru Hockey Association President's Cup 5-a-side hockey tournament here.

The results: Finals: Women: Bengaluru Blues HC bt Southern Alpha Sports Association 4-4 (via 3-2 in tie-breaker). **Men:** Jude Felix Hockey Academy bt Falcon HC 3-2

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LIVE TELECAST

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Nations League: Sony Ten 1, 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Staridar wins P.V.G. Raju Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: Staridar (Santosh Raj up) claimed the P.V.G. Raju Memorial Cup, the main event of Sunday's (Sept. 25) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Md. Kashif Khan. Nilesh Rawal trains the winner.

Meanwhile, the Stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club (HRC) have resolved to cancel the races scheduled to be held on September 27 (Tuesday) due to paucity of acceptors.

1. JATPROLE CUP (DIV. II) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): **TEMPTATIONS** (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Alabama (Kiran Naidu) 2, Swiss Girl (Suraj Narredu) 3 and China Town (Gaurav Singh) 4. 4-1/2, 3-3/4 and Nk. 1m, 26.47s. ₹26 (w), 14, 12 and 11 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 56, SHW: 17 and 16, FP: 111, Q: 50, Tanala: 261. Favourite: Swiss Girl. Owner: Mr. Kondlapudi Satish. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. NAWAB SULTAN ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **WINNING STREAK** (Afroz Khan) 1, Superstellar (Gaurav Singh) 2, Speaking Of Love (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Dillon (B. Nikhil) 4. Nk, Nose and 7-1/2. 1m, 39.00s. ₹120 (w), 16, 11 and 11 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 93, SHW: 27 and 16, FP: 598, Q: 157, Tanala: 761. Favourite: Speaking Of Love. Owners: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy, Col. S.B. Nair & Mr. Arjun Reddy Ramasahayam. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

3. P.V.G. RAJU MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): **STARIDAR** (Santosh Raj) 1, Trump Star (B.R. Kumar) 2, Watch My Stride (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Soloist (Gaurav Singh) 4. 3/4, Hd and 1/2. 1m, 25.35s. ₹300 (w), 34, 14 and 11 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 68, SHW: 68 and 22, FP: 1,706, Q: 562, Tanala: 5,086. Favourite: Watch My Stride. Owner: Mr. Md. Kashif Khan. Trainer: N. Rawal.

4. S.N. REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **CITY OF BLISS** (B.R. Kumar) 1, Bedford (Santosh Raj) 2, DRD (Deepak Singh) 3 and Bandit King (Kiran Naidu) 4. 3/4, 3/4 and 1. 1m, 12.84s. ₹21 (w), 12, 11 and 19 (p). SHP: 53, THP: 44, SHW: 16 and 16, FP: 79, Q: 36, Tanala: 140. Favourite: City Of Bliss. Owners: Mr. K. Thribhuvan Reddy. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

5. JATPROLE CUP (DIV. I) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): **SOORYA VAHAN** (Md. Ismail) 1, White Roses (Akshay Kumar) 2, Protocol (Mohit Singh) 3 and Hugh Capet (D.S. Deora) 4. 2, 1-1/4 and Sh. 1m, 27.29s. ₹800 (w), 110, 12 and 61 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 174, SHW: 554 and 18, FP: 5,431, Q: 1,537, Tanala: 88,171. Favourite: Once I Come. Owners: Mr. Satyanarayana Reddy Pannala & Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondalla.

6. MAJOR GENERAL NAWAB KHUSRU JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III): **THAT'S MY WAY** (Afroz Khan) 1, Horse O' War (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Virangna (3) B.R. Kumar 3 and Alpine Girl (P. Sai Kumar) 4. Nk, Nk and 1-1/4. 1m, 14.28s. ₹289 (w), 37, 17 and 36 (p). SHP: 53, THP: 79, SHW: 133 and 34, FP: 2,864, Q: 1,051, Tanala: 69,730. Favourite: Good Tidings. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: Raza Shehzad.

7. RAJA SAHEB OF CHALLAPALLI MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BAISA** (D.S. Deora) 1, Above The Law (Md. Ismail) 2, Cabello (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Mind Reader (R.S. Jodha) 4. 2, 3-1/4 and Nk. 1m, 12.90s. ₹31 (w), 14, 20 and 17 (p). SHP: 58, THP: 53, SHW: 15 and 25, FP: 183, Q: 123, Tanala: 749. Favourite: N R I Blue. Owner: Mr. Laxman Singh Parmar. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

8. RAJA SAHEB OF CHALLAPALLI MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BRIAR RIDGE** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Top Diamond (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Ok Boss (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Royal Pal (R.S. Jodha) 4. Nk, 3-1/4 and 3. 1m, 13.33s. ₹18 (w), 12, 20 and 14 (p). SHP: 78, THP: 50, SHW: 18 and 27, FP: 139, Q: 133, Tanala: 425. Favourite: Briar Ridge. Owners: Mr. Teegala Vijender Reddy, Mr. Teegala Sumant Reddy & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: 100%: ₹4,46,081 (c/f); Mini Jackpot: (i) 37,627 (c/f), (ii) 50,680 (c/f); Treble: (i) 9,005 (4 tkts.), (ii) 31,752 (c/f), (iii) 5,124 (12 tkts.).

National Games will be a big boost to Gujarat's sports ecosystem

Sports Bureau

Ahead of the 36th National Games to be held in Gujarat next week, *Sportstar* held its first-ever West Sports Conclave in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Gujarat head coach Mukund Parmar, winner of the Hero Unsung Champion award. VIJAY SONEJI

Ashwani Kumar. VIJAY SONEJI

Addressing the gathering, Ashwani Kumar, Secretary-Sports, Youth and Cultural Affairs, Gujarat Government, said that the Games will provide a big boost to the sports ecosystem in Gujarat.

There will be 7415 athletes out of the 14,500 who are expected to be involved in the Games that will be held across six cities (Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Gandhinagar).

"The Gujarat government has rolled out a sports policy as well as incentives for sports manufacturers in line with other industries.

"We will also soon bring out a policy for para sports," said Ashwani Kumar.

Apart from athletics, hockey, football, volleyball, tennis and other sports, traditional ones like kabaddi and kho kho will also be held.

Bhavani to test her skills in National Games to prepare for bigger events

FENCING

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Fencer Bhavani Devi is looking to test her new techniques and strategies during the National Games and use them during big-ticket events ahead.

The 29-year-old, who won the Commonwealth fencing championships gold last month, will be one of the star attractions at the multi-sport event in Gujarat.

New beginning: Bhavani has changed her technique and strategies with an eye on the future. FILE PHOTO

"I have changed my coach, my technique, my strategies. We have more important events like the Olympic qualification in April, so I need to work on my strategies. I have to apply them on all my opponents, both beginners and experienced ones and see how it works," she said during a virtual interaction conducted by SAI.

"Sabre is a very fast sport, you can't take time in between touch, you can't think and decide what you want to do in those milliseconds. It is still risky to try new techniques in the National Games because it is like a show, everyone is going to watch. So I need to perform well but at the same time, I need to work on new techniques which can help me in bigger tournaments."

The Chennai-born Bhavani has parted ways with Italian Nicola Zanotti and is currently being coached by legendary French fencer Christian Bauer.

Exposure needed

Bhavani said Indian fencers will need more international exposure to compete with the best in business.

"Right now fencing is in the development stage, we definitely have a long way to reach a stage where we are able to give a tough fight to the top stars in the world," she said.

"We are starting more domestic competitions so that players can compete with fencers who have taken part in international competitions. They can gauge their level and those who have taken part in international competitions can also improve."

Tirkey wants to promote hockey in States like Punjab, UP and TN

Press Trust of India
GANDHINAGAR

Newly-elected Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey on Sunday said one of his priorities will be to promote hockey at the grass roots level by setting up more artificial turfs in states like Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

His immediate priority though is the men's World Cup to be held in Odisha in January next year.

"States like Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and cities like Mumbai and Bhopal are crucial," Tirkey said.

Back to grass roots

"I will go to these places and look to develop the game from the grass roots level. We need more artificial turfs in these places to groom talent," Tirkey said.

Dilip Tirkey. FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

> There are a lot of expectations and my immediate priority is the World Cup in Odisha from January 13 next year

On his election as head of Indian hockey, Tirkey said, "As a player, I worked hard and represented the country in the Olympics and other major international tournaments. Now, I have been entrusted with a new challenge.

"There are a lot of expectations and my immediate priority is the World Cup in Odisha from January 13 next year," he said in a release.

Regarded one of world hockey's finest defenders during his playing days, the HI chief said the 36th National Games in Gujarat will unearth new talent.

Revival mode

"Indian hockey is in revival mode. Youngsters are taking it in large numbers once again and the National Games could well give the final push that the sport needs," he said.

"As only the top eight men's and women's teams will be in competition, hockey will be of the highest quality.

"Young players can showcase their talent and hope to get into national reckoning," he stated, suggesting that the selectors would be in attendance.

SNAPSHOTS

Miller powers to Japanese MotoGP title

Australia's Jack Miller powered to an emphatic victory at Motegi on Sunday in the first Japanese MotoGP since 2019.

The Ducati rider stormed from seventh on the grid to clinch his fourth MotoGP victory, more than three seconds ahead of South Africa's Brad Binder. Spain's Jorge Martin was third.

Jack Miller. REUTERS

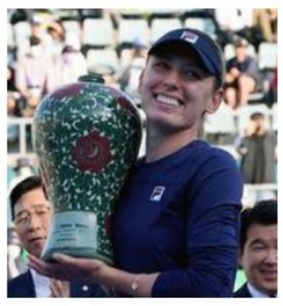
Russia's Alexandrova wins Korea Open title

Ekaterina Alexandrova won the third title of her career as she dismantled top seed Jelena Ostapenko 7-6(4), 6-0 in the final of the Korea Open on Sunday. Alexandrova entered the Korea Open ranked 24th in the world having won the Libema Open in June. Ostapenko advanced to the final after former US Open winner Emma Raducanu retired in the semifinal with injury.

Liudmila Samsonova. AFP

Samsonova wins third WTA title in two months

Liudmila Samsonova of Russia extended a remarkable summer run by clinching her third title in two months, beating Chinese Zheng Qinwen 7-5, 7-5 at the Toray Pan Pacific Open on Sunday. The 23-year-old World No. 30 won in Washington and Cleveland in August and has now won 18 of her last 19 matches and didn't drop a set in Tokyo.



Ekaterina Alexandrova. AP